

SEC clarifies on exclusion of anchal samities

Cock can't crow during PRI polls

ITANAGAR, Apr 16:

'Cock', the symbol of Naga People's Front (NPF), would not crow during the panchayat elections in Arunachal Pradesh as the State Election Commission refused to accept NPF as a state party and allot the 'Cock' symbol as requested by the Nagalangk-based NPF president.

"The SEC cannot accept any application for registering any political party in Arunachal Pradesh under the provisions of Election Symbols (Reservation & Allotment) Order, 1968 as the said power is vested only with the Election Commission of India," the SEC said in an order Monday.

"Every political party must be a registered party but not every registered political party would automatically become either a recognized national party or state party. The recognition would depend on the percentage of votes that a political party secures in



the previous election or the number of returned candidates in a particular state for which it seeks recognition," the order said.

On the request for free symbol to the NPF, the SEC Tuesday said that the "Commission is not empowered to reserve symbol for your party from the list of Free Symbols. Allotment of a common symbol from the list of Free Symbols under Schedule III (Rule-7) of the Arunachal Panchayati Raj (Conduct of Election) Rules, 2001 like 'Hornbill' or 'Hurricane Lamps' as requested by you the like

to inform you that.

Free symbol for a candidate who is not setup by recognized national parties and the state/regional parties in Arunachal Pradesh is decided in accordance with the provisions laid down in Rule-9(1) of the Arunachal Panchayati Raj (Conduct of Election) Rules, 2001, it pointed out.

The SEC in another order had stated Monday that "the 7 and 7A Tirbin anchal samities shall not be included in the general panchayat elections 2013 to be notified on April 16".

Citing chronological directives to all district election officers to publish draft electoral rolls of PRIs for special summary revision in sync with the schedule of programme for summary revision of electoral rolls for assembly constituencies issued by ECI, including publication of final electoral roll of PRIs by January 15, but the SEC noted with concern that the admission of

the DEO(PR), Aalo that the electoral rolls published on January 15 have been modified without the approval and knowledge of the Commission.

"It is established beyond reasonable doubt that the electoral roll which is the very basis of any election, in the instant case, suffer from inherent defects so much so that even the number of GPs within the bifurcated Tirbin AS cannot be settled," thus the order to exclude the ASs from the election process, the order added.

The task of PRI election is gigantic as the process would elect members to 777 zilla parishads, 175 anchal samities (2 excluded) and 7,403 gram panchayats.

While 61,493 voters would elect 30 councillors for Itanagar Municipality, 9,683 voters would elect 12 councillors from Pasighat Municipality. The municipality elections are being held for the first time in the state.