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State cops failed to pursue 543 cases of netas bribing voters

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Hyderabad: Telangana police failed to pursue to its logical conclusion 543 cases of politicians bribing voters in the last general elections. According to a RTI reply provided by the Election Commission of India, both Telangana and AP failed to provide information to the EC regarding the number of cases booked against politicians for bribing voters.

The EC had sought information, statistics from the chief electoral officers of all states and union territories about the cases filed, disposed of and pending during the last five years. An ECI official said, "We have received information from only 18 states and Union Territories from chief electoral officers."

With Telangana and AP not providing the information, Forum for Good Governance (FGG), on its own, obtained information regarding the 171 IPC cases filed in the two states separately from all district superintendents of police after writing to each police station.

The Forum had recently written to DGP of Telangana to expedite the probe, file chargesheet and bring the case against politicians to its logical conclusion. Incidentally, the case against Telangana Forest Minister Jogu Ramanna that was booked with Adilabad town police station has been closed by the police.

According to FGG secretary Padmanabha Reddy, over 10,000 cases were booked for different offences and Rs 150 crore seized by the police in united Andhra Pradesh during the 2014 general elections. "The contesting candidates were distributing sums of money to bribe the voters. In the majority of 543 cases booked for bribery, there has not been any progress. Normally, it so happens that in very few cases, direct involvement of a candidate can be established as most of the time, party workers and agents distribute the money. When a case is booked, we observed that along with money, party literature and voter list is found and they are also seized. The party

literature and voters lists will give enough clues to link the bribe to the contesting candidate," he told TOI.

Besides, said Padmanabha Reddy, the authorities are lenient with the politicians. "Police registers case against a person who is distributing the money but enquiry to establish the link with the contesting candidate is not done. In few cases when the candidate is present while the money is being distributed, he is shown as A2 and A3," he said.

CASE FILES KEEP MOUNTING

➤ **MLA Koneru Konappa of Sirpur**, booked in Kagaznagar police station, was chargesheeted and a decision is pending as the accused didn't show up

➤ A second case booked in Kagaznagar is also pending for want of attendance of the accused

➤ In the case booked against **MLA Gangula Kamalakar in Karimnagar** two town police station, he has been chargesheeted and trial is pending

➤ Even in the case booked against **Huzurunagar MLA Uttam Kumar Reddy** with Suryapet town police station, trial is pending

➤ The case against **MLA Puvvada Ajaya Kumar from Khammam**, booked in Khamalapuram PS Haveli, is pending with the HC

➤ Case against **MLA Konda Sureka in Warangal East** with Mills Colony police station is pending trial

➤ Case against **Bhupalapally MLA S Madhusudhana Chary** with Ghanpur police station is pending trial

THE SECTIONS

➤ **Section 171 B of IPC** states about gratification to any person with the object of inducing him to exercise any electoral right

➤ **Section 171 E of IPC** states whoever commits the offence of bribery shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both

OF CASH & GOLD

	Cases	Money seized	Gold & other items
Hyderabad	92	₹16 Cr	3 cases
Adilabad	57	₹1.21Cr	6 cases
Karimnagar	94	₹3.15Cr	2 cases
Khammam	40	₹66L	173 cases
Mahabubnagar	107	₹6.34Cr	6 cases
Medak	26	₹3.28Cr	—
Nalgonda	6	₹1.51Cr	—
Nizamabad	101	₹2.17Cr	8 cases
Ranga Reddy	2	₹7L	—
Warangal	18	₹21L	—
Total	543	₹34.38Cr	198

18 STATES' ECI DATA STATES...

➤ Tamil Nadu has filed 10,354 FIRs, the highest number, of which 7,865 have been chargesheeted

➤ Punjab has booked 2,471 cases, followed by Karnataka at 1,599 cases

➤ Andaman & Nicobar Island registered 2 cases

➤ 631 cases registered in Maharashtra, of which 617 were chargesheeted