

**HARYANA POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LTD**

Regd. Office: C-7, Urja Bhawan, Sector-6, Panchkula

HPGCL Corporate Identity Number: U45207HR1997SGC033517

AN ISO: 9001, ISO: 14001 &

OHSAS: 18001 COMPANY

Website: www.hpgcl.org.in
Telephone No. 0172-5023426E-mail: dsgenl@hpgcl.org.in
Fax No. 0172-5022434

From

Chief Engineer/Administration
HPGCL, Panchkula.

To

1. All Chief Engineers in HPGCL.
2. Controller of Finance, HPGCL, Panchkula.
3. Controller of Accounts, HPGCL, Panchkula.
4. Company Secretary, HPGCL, Panchkula.
5. LR, HPU, HPGCL, Panchkula.
6. XEN/FTPS, HPGCL, Faridabad.
7. XEN/IT, HPGCL, Panchkula for uploading the same on HPGCL website.
8. All Dy. Secy./Under Secy./Admn.Officers in HPGCL.

Memo No. *Ch-125* /GB/HPGCL-376 (Vol-14) / *8703*
Dated *12*. 02.2024.

- Subject:**
1. Model Code of Conduct – Instruction – Celebration of Important Days - Regarding.
 2. Model Code of Conduct – Publication of Advertisement – Regarding.
 3. Model Code of Conduct – Instruction – Election Campaign – Regarding.

Enclosed please find herewith a copy of memo no. 4/6/2024-1 Election dated 29.01.2024, 4/7/2024-1 Election dated 29.01.2024 & memo no. 4/2/2024-1 Election dated 29.01.2024 received from Superintendent Election O/o Chief Secretary's Election Branch Chandigarh along with enclosures on the subject cited matters.

This is for your information and strict compliance please.

(Varun Kumar)
Dy. Secy./Genl.For Chief Engineer/Administration
HPGCL, Panchkula.

CC:

PA to CE/Admn., HPGCL, Panchkula.

No. 4/7/2024-1ELECTION
HARYANA GOVERNMENT
Chief Secretary's Office
Election Branch

<BO>
MD/HPGCL
06/02/2024
DT-2

Dated, Chandigarh the 29th January, 2024

Director/Technical-I
No. 1673 Dt. 06/02/24
CE/Admin.
CE/Fuel
CE/DCRTPP
CE/RGTPP
CE/PTPS
CE/Plg.
CE/REO
CE/Proj
CE/Regulatory
SE/Tech.
XEN/Tech.
Personal Assistant

To

1. Chief Secretary to Government Haryana (in Services-II Branch),
2. All the Administrative Secretaries to Government Haryana,
3. All the Heads of Department in Haryana,
4. All the Managing Director of Boards/Corporations in Haryana,
5. All the Divisional Commissioner's in Haryana,
6. All the Deputy Commissioner's-cum-District Electoral Officers in Haryana,
7. All the Superintendent's of Police in Haryana,
8. All the Vice Chancellor's of the Universities in the Haryana.

Subject:- Model Code of Conduct - Instruction- Celebration of Important Days - Regarding.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to letter No. 437/6/INST/ECI/FUNCT/MCC/2024(IMPORTANT DAYS)/142, dated 02nd January, 2024, received from Sh. Narendra N. Butolia, Sr. Principal Secretary, Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi, on the subject noted above, and forward the same for necessary action with the request that these instructions may be brought to notice of all concerned for information and strict compliance.

Yours faithfully

Memo No. 801
Dated 07/02/24
DS/Estt.
US/NGE
DS/General
DS/T&M
XEN/HR&TRG
XEN/Rectt.

CE/Admn.,

Superintendent Election

Endst. No. 4/7/2024-1Election

Dated, Chandigarh the 29th January, 2024

A copy is forwarded to Sh. Narendra N. Butolia, Sr. Principal Secretary, Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi w.r.t. their letter No. 437/6/INST/ECI/FUNCT/MCC/2024(IMPORTANT DAYS)/142, dated 02nd January, 2024, for information.

1 DAIRY NO. 10780
2 DATE 08.02.2024
3 AEE/GENL - 2
4 SUPDT/GENL.
5 DY. SUPDT/GENL
6 ASSTT./GENL-(1)
7 ASST./GENL-(2)

Superintendent Election

Endst. No. 4/7/2024-1Election

Dated, Chandigarh the 29th January, 2024

A copy of. letter No. 437/6/INST/ECI/FUNCT/MCC/2024(IMPORTANT DAYS)/142, dated 02nd January, 2024, is forwarded to the Chief Electoral Officer, Haryana, 30-Bays Building, Sector-17, Chandigarh, for information and necessary action.


Superintendent Election, C

Endst. No. 4/7/2024-1Election

Dated, Chandigarh the 29th January, 2024

A copy is forwarded to all the Sr. Spl. Secy./ Sr. Secy. / Secy. / PS to Chief Minister/Ministers/ State Ministers with the request that these instruction may be brought to the notice of Chief Minister / Ministers/State Ministers.


Superintendent Election, C

To

Sr. Spl. Secy./ Sr. Secy./ Secy./ PS to Chief Minister / Ministers/ State Ministers.

U.O. No. 4/7/2024-1Election

Dated Chandigarh the 29th January, 2024

By Speed Post/E-Mail



भारत निर्वाचन आयोग सचिवालय
SECRETARIAT OF THE ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

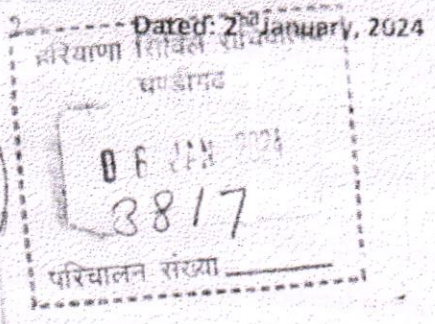
निर्वाचन सदन, अशोक रोड, नई दिल्ली-110001
Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No. 437/6/INST/ECI/FUNCT/MCC/2024 (IMPORTANT DAYS) / 142

Dated: 27th January, 2024

To,

- (i) The Chief Secretaries
of all States and Union Territories.
- (ii) The Chief Electoral Officers
of all States and Union Territories.



Subject: -Model Code of Conduct – Instruction- Celebration of Important Days – Regarding.

Reference: Commission's instructions:

- CS (Busy) (i) No. 437/6/98-PLN-III, dated 10.01.1998
(ii) No. ECI/GE98-437/6/BR/98-PLN-III, dated 27.01.1998
(iii) No. 437/6/99-PLN-III, dated 28.07.1999
PA/CS (iv) No. 437/6/99-PLN-III, dated 16.08.1999
(v) No. 437/6/2004/PLN-III, dated 28.09.2004, and
(vi) No. 437/6/INST/2012-CC&BE, dated 24th January 2012

Madam/Sir,

The Commission has issued, in the past, a number of instructions in regard to celebration of important days during the period of enforcement of Model Code of Conduct. Following are the consolidated instructions in supersession of all the instructions issued vide letters listed above:

I. Celebration of Independence Day/Republic Day - attendance of political functionaries

(i) There is no objection to Central Ministers/Chief Ministers/Ministers in the States to do the honours in the main Republic Day/Independence Day functions at various locations subject to the condition that in their speeches, they should confine themselves to extolling the achievements of the Martyrs in securing freedom of the country, glory of the Indian State and so on. Under no circumstances, they should become a platform for political campaign.

(ii) In view of the fact that Republic Day celebrations will come during the election process and that the Central Ministers, Chief Ministers and Ministers in the States belong to political parties and

alliances and may even be the candidates, the Commission, purely in the interest of a level playing field, directs that no Central Minister/Chief Minister/Minister or any other political functionary in the States/Ex-MPs shall do the honours at any such function at any location of within their home district or constituency or from where he or she is a contesting candidate or intends to contest. The Prime Minister and Chief Minister may however do so from the National Capital and State headquarters during Independence Day as per long standing conventions. Further, the dignitaries who will hoist the National Flag at the functions may travel directly to that place from the place of election campaign, if any. The travel expenditure for this purpose may be borne by the State Government concerned. They do not need to travel between these places via headquarter.

(iii) The Commission has no objection to organisation of Kavi Sammelan, Mushairas or other cultural functions organised in connection with the celebrations and being attended by the Central Ministers, Chief Ministers, Ministers in the States and other political functionaries. However, utmost care should be taken to ensure that no political speeches are made on the occasion.

(iv) The investiture ceremonies at the National and State level and distribution of Tamra Patras to freedom fighters, etc. should be done according to the existing conventions.

II. Celebration of *Sadbhavana Diwas/Gandhi Jayanti* - participation of political functionaries

(i) Central Ministers/Chief Ministers/Ministers in the States can participate in the Celebration of *Sadbhavana Diwas/Gandhi Jayanti* subject to the condition that the theme of their speeches should be confined only to the Promotion of harmony among the people and extolling deeds and achievement of Mahatma Gandhi and utmost care should be taken to ensure that no political speeches highlighting the achievements of party in power are made on the occasion. Under no circumstances, it should become a platform for political campaign.

(ii) Messages, if any, issued in the name of Ministers, should be confined to the theme of National Integration and Mahatma Gandhi only and should carry no photograph of the concerned Minister.

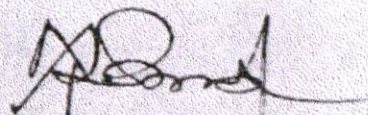
III. Hosting of Iftar Party

The Commission is of the view that any entertainment at State cost on a religious occasion would not be correct and specially during the continuance of the election process. However, any

individual is free by all means to host any such party in his personal capacity and meeting the expense with his or her personal account on their own.

The above instructions of the Commission shall be brought to notice of all concerned for strict compliance.

Yours faithfully,


(NARENDRA N. BUTOLIA)
SR. PRINCIPAL SECRETARY

HPGCL

No. 4/6/2024-1ELECTION
HARYANA GOVERNMENT
Chief Secretary's Office
Election Branch

<B0>
MD/HPGCL
06/02/2024
DT-I

Dated, Chandigarh the 29th January, 2024

06/2/2024

- Director/Technical
- No. 1674 Dt. 06.02.24
- CE/Admin.
- CE/Fuel
- CE/DCRTPP
- CE/RGTPP
- CE/PTPS
- CE/Ptg.
- CE/REO
- CE/Proj
- CE/Regulatory
- SE/Tech.
- XEN/Tech.
- Personal Assistant

1. Chief Secretary to Government Haryana (in Services-II Branch),
2. All the Administrative Secretaries to Government Haryana.
3. All the Heads of Department in Haryana,
4. All the Managing Director of Boards/Corporations in Haryana,
5. All the Divisional Commissioner's in Haryana,
6. All the Deputy Commissioner's-cum-District Electoral Officers in Haryana,
7. All the Superintendent's of Police in Haryana,
8. All the Vice Chancellor's of the Universities in the Haryana.

Subject:- **Model Code of Conduct - Publication of Advertisements - Regarding.**

Sir,

I am directed to refer to letter No. 437/6/INST/ECI/FUNCT/MCC/2024(ADVERTISEMENT)/334, dated 02nd January, 2024, received from Sh. Narendra N. Butolia, Sr. Principal Secretary, Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi, on the subject noted above and forward the same for necessary action with the request that these instructions may be brought to notice of all concerned for information and strict compliance.

Yours faithfully,

29/1/24

Superintendent Election

Endst. No. 4/6/2024-1Election

Dated, Chandigarh the 29th January, 2024

A copy is forwarded to Sh. Narendra N. Butolia, Sr. Principal Secretary, Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi w.r.t. their letter No. 437/6/INST/ECI/FUNCT/MCC/2024(ADVERTISEMENT)/344, dated 02nd January, 2024, for information.

29/1/24

Superintendent Election

Endst. No. 4/6/2024-1Election

Dated, Chandigarh the 29th January, 2024

A copy of letter No. 437/6/INST/ECI/FUNCT/MCC/2024(MCC ADVERTISEMENT)/334, dated 02nd January, 2024, is forwarded to the Chief Electoral Officer, Haryana, 30-Bays Building, Sector-17, Chandigarh, for information and necessary action.

Memo No. 800
 Dated 07/02/24
 DS/Estt.
 US/NGE
 DS/General
 DS/T&M
 XEN/HR&TRG
 XEN/Rectt.

CE/Admn., 7/2

- 1 DAIRY NO. 10779
 2 DATE. 08.02.2024
 3 AEE/GENL - 2
 4 SUPDT./GENL.
 5 DY. SUPDT./GENL
 6 ASSTT./GENL-(1)
 7 ASST./GENL-(2)

29/1/24

Superintendent Election

CFM No. 1674
SPS/MD/HPGCL
Dated 06/02/2024

By Speed Post/E-Mail

भारत निर्वाचन आयोग सचिवालय
SECRETARIAT OF THE ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

निर्वाचन सदन, अशोक रोड, नई दिल्ली-110001
Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

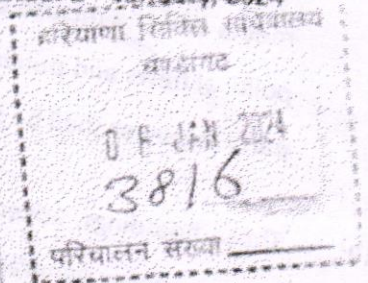
No. 437/6/INST/ECI/FUNCT/MCC/2024(ADVERTISEMENTS)/334

Dated: 2nd January, 2024

RTS To, 1/1/24

(i) The Chief Secretaries
of all States and Union Territories

(ii) The Chief Electoral Officers
of all States and Union Territories.



Subject: -Model Code of Conduct – Publication of Advertisements – Regarding.

Reference: Commission's instructions:

- (i) No. 437/6/28/2004/PLN-III, dated 29.09.2004
- (ii) No. 437/6/2004-PLN III, dated 24.12.2004
- (iii) No. 3/9/2007/JS-II, dated: 03.08.2007
- (iv) No. 437/6/INST/2009-CC&BE, dated 23.02.2009
- (v) No. 437/6/INST/2008-CC&BE, dated 13.04.2009
- (vi) No. 437/6/CG/2013/CC&BE, dated 09.10.2013
- (vii) No. 437/6/CG/2013/CC&BE, dated 17.10.2013
- (viii) No. 437/6/CG/2013-CC&BE, dated 30.10.2013
- (ix) No. 437/6/1/2014/CC&BE, dated 01.04.2014
- (x) No. 437/6/ ECI/INST/FUNCT/MCC-2017, dated 06.01.2017
- (xi) No. 437/6/1/ECI/INST/FUNCT/MCC/2021, dated 13.03.2021
- (xii) No. 437/6/INST/2014/CC&BE, dated 11.09.2014, and
- (xiii) No. 437/6/INST/2015-CCS, dated 29.12. 2015

CS (Busy)

PAVCS
09 JAN 2024

SSPS

10.01.24

Madam/Sir,

The Commission has issued various instructions from time to time on Publication of Advertisements during the period of enforcement of Model Code of Conduct. Following are the consolidated instructions in supersession of all the instructions issued vide letters listed above:

I. Advertisements at the cost of Public Exchequer

- (a) Sub-para (iv) of para VII - 'Party in Power' of the Model Code of Conduct for the Guidance of Political Parties and Candidates provides that:

"The party in power whether at the Centre or in the States/UTs concerned, shall ensure that no cause is given for any complaint that it has used its official position for the purposes of its election campaign and in particular-

(iv) Issue of advertisement at the cost of public exchequer in the newspapers and other media and the misuse of official mass media during the election period for partisan coverage of political news and publicity regarding achievements with a view to furthering the prospects of the party in power shall be scrupulously avoided."

(b) Those hoardings, advertisements, etc., put up by the Government which purport to give general information or convey general messages to the masses on family planning, social welfare schemes etc. may be allowed to be displayed. However, all those hoardings, advertisements, etc. which seek or purport to project the achievements of any living political functionaries or political party and which carry their photos or name or party symbol should be removed forthwith as no political functionary or political party can use public resources and incur or authorize expenditure from public exchequer to eulogize himself or itself or enhance his/its own or any political leader's personal image. Such hoardings, etc. undoubtedly amount to their individual/party election campaign at public cost. Accordingly, the photos of political leaders in such advertisement should be removed/covered suitably. The continuing display of such hoardings and advertisements at the cost of public exchequer, even if such hoardings, advertisements or posters were displayed prior to the date of announcement of elections, constitutes a violation of the Model Code of Conduct as it provides an undue advantage to the party in power and has the effect of influencing the voters in favour of the party in power.

(c) No advertisements should hereafter be issued in the newspapers and other media, including electronic media, at the cost of public exchequer during the election period and the misuse of mass media during the election period for partisan coverage of political news and publicity regarding achievements with a view to furthering the prospects of the party in power should be scrupulously avoided.

ii. Use of space in Railway Stations, Bus Stands, Airport, Bridges-Railway and Roadways, Govt. Buses, Govt. and public buildings, Electric and telephone poles, Municipal/local bodies' buildings, space and assets for political advertisement

(i) Display of election posters, hoardings, banners, etc., in any Government/PSU premises is not permitted even if it is a commercial space. The Commercial spaces of Govt and Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) during election periods cannot be used for displaying political advertisements.

(ii) In case there is no specific provision in the by-laws of PSUs, or in their agreements with the advertisement agencies to whom they let out space for advertisement for prohibiting display of political advertisement, the PSUs may be instructed to add a para in their commercial agreements with commercial agencies/companies while providing space on lease to the advertisement agency for placing commercial advertisements that "No political advertisement shall be displayed/pasted at the space provided on lease for commercial advertisement like airport, railway stations, inter state/local bus stands, Govt. transportation, post offices, Government hospitals/dispensaries etc. (except on main highways, main roads etc.) during the period of Model Code of Conduct. If there is any political advertisement in the provided space, the same shall be removed immediately on enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct."

(iii) In the case of Halls/Auditoriums/Meeting venues owned/controlled by the Government/local authorities/PSUs/Cooperatives, if the law/guidelines governing their use do not preclude political meetings therein, there is no objection to it but, it shall be ensured that the allocation is done on equitable basis and that there is no monopolization by any political party or candidates. In such venues, displaying of banners, bunting, flags, cut-outs, may be permitted during the period of meetings subject to any restrictions under the law/guidelines in force. Such banners, flags, etc. shall be got removed by the party/individual who used the premises immediately after conclusion of the meeting, and in any case within a reasonable period after the meeting is over. Permanent/semi-permanent defacement such as wall writing/pasting of poster etc. shall not be permitted in such premises. The ECI Observers shall closely monitor compliance, and will specifically mention it in their reports to ECI.

III. Broadcasting of election related matter over Radio during period of forty – eight hours ending with hour fixed for conclusion of poll

Clause (b) of sub-section (1) of Section 126 prohibits display of election matter through T.V. or similar apparatus. It is clarified that radio would be treated as 'other similar apparatus' for this purpose and hence broadcasting /propagating any election matter through Radio would be covered under clause (b) and would not be permissible during the period of 48 hours mentioned in the said section.

IV. Publication of advertisements in connection with occasions like World Habitat Day, Polio/HIV awareness campaigns and celebrations of various 'Diwas' like Independence Day, Republic Day, Gandhi Jayanti, State Formation days, etc.

(i) The Commission receives various references from the Ministries/Departments seeking clearance for the publication of advertisements on the occasions of World Habitat Day, Pulse Polio Immunization/HIV awareness campaigns, etc. during the run-up to General/Bye-elections to the Lok Sabha/State Legislative Assemblies when the model code of conduct is in force. Objecting to the publication of advertisement on important social issues is never intended by the Commission. It only wants to ensure that the party in power does not misuse the Government machinery in the garb of spreading a social message which is against the spirit of providing a level playing field and so violate the spirit of free and fair election. Election Commission of India has therefore, taken a clear stand that there will be no objection to the release of such advertisements if they do not contain the photograph or political message of any Minister/political dignitary and do not highlight the achievements of the party which may influence the voters and induce them to vote in their favour.

(ii) Different important historical days like Independence Day, Republic Day, Gandhi Jayanti, Shivaji Jayanti and State Formation Days are celebrated with much fanfare which are attended to by Central/State Ministers who, at time, make it a platform for gaining political advantage by highlighting the achievements of the party in power or their political functionaries contesting the elections. The Commission has taken a serious note of this and decided that while the Ministers can participate in such celebrations the theme of their speeches should be confined only to the historical background, deeds and achievements of the historical figures and they must take utmost care not to make any political speech converting the forum into a platform for political campaign.

(iii) There will be a complete ban on celebrations like "xxx years/days in power" during this period as such occasions are virtually utilized to highlight the achievement of the party in power.

(iv) The Aadhaar related publicity can be done which has the objective to give information about Aadhaar Card to the general masses. Any publicity highlighting the achievements of the scheme or Authority or Government will not be allowed to be made.

(v) On the occasion of Birth/Death Anniversaries of political leaders, photographs and messages related to departed political leaders except those leaders who passed away in recent past, may be published in the advertisements in this regard.

... Display of Photos of Political Functionaries on beneficiary cards, electric bills, construction site plaques etc.

(i) Beneficiary cards distributed to beneficiaries, constructions site plaques etc. erected during the enforcement of Model Code of Conduct shall not contain photographs, messages of Chief Ministers, Ministers and other political functionaries. However, no interference is called for in respect of photos of political functionaries on beneficiary cards, construction site plaques etc. that are distributed/erected prior to the enforcement of model code of conduct.

(ii) The electricity bills, water bills, boarding passes, vaccination certificates, etc. to be generated after the enforcement of Model Code of Conduct should not contain any photographs or messages/symbols of political functionaries/parties.

(iii) Similarly, the fertilizer bags, paper cups or any other merchandise to be used in the areas where Model Code of Conduct is enforced, should not contain any photographs or messages/symbols of political functionaries/parties.

VI. Publication of any advertisements of Central Government in the newspapers of non-poll going States having circulation in poll going States

(i) It has been observed that certain advertisements highlighting welfare schemes and achievements of the Central Government and State Governments are published by some non-poll going State Governments, in the editions of newspapers in the States where elections are going on. The Commission considers this to be a violation of the spirits of the Model Code of Conduct.

(ii) The Commission has directed that all such advertisements, issued by non-poll going State Governments during the Model Code of Conduct period shall be forwarded to the Commission for clearance before they are sent for publication in newspapers having edition or having circulation in the poll bound States.

(iii) If any violation of the above instructions come to the notice of the Election Commission, the Secretary/Director of Information & Public Relations of the concerned State government shall directly be held responsible for such lapse.

VII. Equitable opportunity to have access to advertisement spaces for election related advertisement

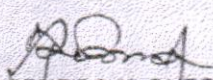
(i) If the local law expressly permits or provides for writing of slogans, displaying posters, etc. or erecting cut-outs, hoardings, banners, political advertisement, etc., in any public place, (as against a

Govt. premise) on payment or otherwise, this may be allowed strictly in accordance with the relevant provisions of the law and subject to Court orders, if any on this subject. It should be ensured that any such place is not dominated/monopolized by any particular party(ies) or candidate(s). All parties and candidates should be provided equal opportunity in this regard.

(ii) If there is a specifically earmarked place provided for displaying advertisements in a public place, e.g. bill boards, hoardings etc. and if such space is already let out to any agency for further allocation to individual clients, the District Election Officer through the municipal authority concerned, if any, should ensure that all political parties and candidates get equitable opportunity to have access to such advertisement space for election related advertisements during the election period.

The above instructions of the Commission shall be brought to the notice of all concerned for strict compliance.

Yours faithfully,


(NARENDRA N. BUTOLIA)
SR. PRINCIPAL SECRETARY

No. 4/2/2024-1ELECTION
HARYANA GOVERNMENT
Chief Secretary's Office
Election Branch

<B07
MD/HPGCL
06/02/2024
DT-1

Dated, Chandigarh the 29th January, 2024

Director/Technical
No. 1675 Dt. 06/02/24
CE/Admin.
CE/Fuel
CE/DCRTPP
CE/RGTPP
CE/PTPS
CE/Plg.
CE/REO
CE/Proj
CE/Regulatory
SE/Tech.
XEN/Tech.
Personal Assistant

To

1. Chief Secretary to Government Haryana (in Services-II Branch),
2. All the Administrative Secretaries to Government Haryana,
3. All the Heads of Department in Haryana,
4. All the Managing Director of Boards/Corporations in Haryana,
5. All the Divisional Commissioner's in Haryana,
6. All the Deputy Commissioner's-cum-District Electoral Officers in Haryana,
7. All the Superintendent's of Police in Haryana,
8. All the Vice Chancellor's of the Universities in the Haryana.

Subject:- Model Code of Conduct - Instruction- Election Campaign - Regarding.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the letter No. 437/6/INST/ECI/FUNCT/MCC/2024(CAMPAIGN)/507, dated 2nd January, 2024, received from the office of Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi, on the subject noted above and forward the same for necessary action with the request that these instructions may be brought to notice of all concerned for information and strict compliance.

Yours faithfully

ASIC
29/1/24
Superintendent Election,

Endst. No. 4/2/2024-1Election

Dated, Chandigarh the 29th January, 2024

A copy is forwarded to Sh. Narendra N. Butolia, Sr. Principal Secretary, Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi w.r.t. their letter No. 437/6/INST/ECI/FUNCT/MCC/2024(CAMPAIGN)/507, dated 2nd January, 2024, for information.

Memo No. 805
Dated 07/02/24
DS/Estt.
US/NGE
DS/General
DS/T&M
XEN/HR&TRG
XEN/Rectt.

ASIC
29/1/24
Superintendent Election,

1 DAIRY NO. 10784
2 DATE 08-02-2024
3 AEE/GENL
4 SUPDT/GENL
5 DY. SUPDT/GENL
6 ASST/GENL-(1)
7 ASST/GENL-(2)

AEE-2

mt
7/2
CE/Admn.

Endst. No. 4/2/2024-1Election

Dated, Chandigarh the 29th January, 2024

A copy of the letter No. 437/6/INST/ECI/FUNCT/MCC/2024(CAMPAIGN)/507, dated 2nd January, 2024, is forwarded to the Chief Electoral Officer, Haryana, 30-Bays Building, Sector-17, Chandigarh, with the request to brought to the notice to all the political parties.

File
29/1/24
Superintendent Election

Endst. No. 4/2/2024-1Election

Dated, Chandigarh the 29th January, 2024

A copy is forwarded to all the Sr. Spl. Secy./ Sr. Secy. / Secy. / PS to Chief Minister/Ministers/ State Ministers with the request that these instruction may be brought to the notice of Chief Minister / Ministers/State Ministers.

File
29/1/24
Superintendent Election

To

Sr. Spl. Secy./ Sr. Secy./ Secy./ PS to Chief Minister / Ministers/ State Ministers.

U.O. No. 4/2/2024-1Election

Dated Chandigarh the 29th January, 2024

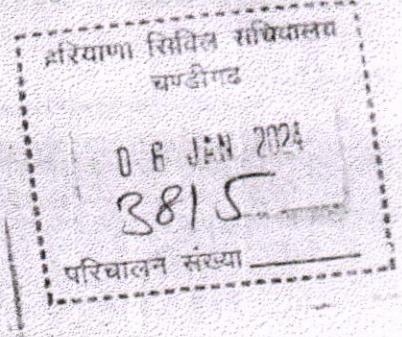


भारतनिर्वाचनआयोगसचिवालय
SECRETARIAT OF THE ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA
निर्वाचन सदन, अशोक रोड, नई दिल्ली-110001
Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No. 437/6/INST/ECI/FUNCT/MCC/2024 (CAMPAIGN) / 387

Dated: 2nd January, 2024

- To,
- 3873
8/1/24
- (i) The Chief Secretaries
of all States and Union Territories.
- (ii) The Chief Electoral Officers
of all States and Union Territories.



Subject: -Model Code of Conduct – Instruction- Election Campaign – Regarding.

Reference: Commission's instructions:

- (i) No. 3/8//2000 J.S.II, dated 26.12.2000
- (ii) No. 464/INST/2007-PLN-I, dated 12.10.2007
- (iii) No. 464/INST/2009-EP, dated 18.03.2009
- (iv) No. 437/6/2009-CC&BE, dated 15.09.2009
- (v) No. 437/6/INST/2013/CC&BE, dated 28.11.2013
- (vi) No. 437/6/INST/2013/CC&BE, dated 04.12.2013
- (vii) No. 437/6/INST/2014-CC&BE, dated 26.04.2014
- (viii) No. 437/INST/2015-CCS, dated 17.09.2015
- (ix) No. 437/6/INST/2015-CCS, dated 09.10.2015
- (x) No. 437/6/Campaign/ECI/INST/FUNCT/MCC-2016, dated 04.01.2017
- (xi) No. 437/6/2017(Policy), dated 10.01.2017
- (xii) No. 437/6/2017 (policy), dated 25.02.2017
- (xiii) No. 437/6/INST/2016-CCS, dated: 24.05.2017
- (xiv) No. 437/6/INST/2016-CCS, dated: 24.05.2017
- (xv) No. 437/6/INST/2016-CCS, dated: 24.05.2017
- (xvi) No. 437/6/2007(INST)-PLN-III, dated 12.11.2007
- (xvii) No. 464/GJ-LA/2007, dated 26.11.2007
- (xviii) No. 464/INST/2014-EP, dated 9.04.2014
- (xix) No. 437/6/INST/2019/MCC, dated 09.03.2019
- (xx) No. 437/6/INST/2019/MCC, dated 19.03.2019
- (xxi) No. 437/6/INST/2019/MCC, dated 05.04.2019
- (xxii) No. 437/6/INST/2019/MCC, dated 29.04.2019
- (xxiii) No. 437/6/INST/2020/MCC, dated 29.01.2020
- (xxiv) No. 437/6/INST/2008-CC&BE, dated 18.02.2009, and
- (xxv) No. 437/6/INST/ECI/LET/FUNCT/MCC/2022, dated 22.01.2022

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S. Sreenivasulu Reddy

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Madam/Sir,

With a view to maintain the election campaign in line with statutory provisions and to avoid clashes and conflicts between stakeholders i.e. political parties or their supporters and also to ensure peace and order during the campaign period, the Commission has issued, in the past, a number of instructions. Following are the consolidated instructions in supersession of all the instructions issued vide letters listed above:

1. Use of Bike

The Commission, having considered inputs that there is a need to regulate the use of bikes for electioneering purposes, issues the following instructions-

- (i) Bike is a two-wheeler and its use shall be restricted only for campaign purpose. Number of bikes may be restricted as per convoy rules of vehicle, which inter-alia provides that cars/vehicles shall, under no circumstances, be allowed to move in convoy of more than ten vehicles excluding the security vehicles. All bigger convoys exceeding ten vehicles shall be broken up, even if they are carrying any minister of central or state government or any other person. This shall, however, be subject to any security instructions issued in respect of any such individual. If any person moves in a convoy of vehicles exceeding the limits prescribed above, in spite of the convoy having been broken, it shall be the duty of the local administration to ensure that such vehicles are not allowed to be used by flouting the Commission's directions, till the process of election is completed.
- (ii) Use of Bikes, other than those permitted to campaign purpose, would be regulated under the prohibitory order, viz. Sec 144 CrPC.
- (iii) Only one flag (of maximum dimension of 1 ft by ½ ft) shall be permitted on one bike.
- (iv) Length of pole/stick for carrying flag shall not be more than 3 feet.

2. Road Shows

There is a total and absolute ban on the use of official vehicle for campaigning, electioneering or election related travel during elections. It also provides that car/vehicles shall not be allowed to move in convoys of more than ten vehicles (excluding security vehicles) and all bigger convoys shall be broken even if they are carrying any Minister of Centre/State Government or any other person, subject to any security instructions issued in respect of any such individual. The Commission, after

considering the fact that there is a need to regulate road shows to avoid any inconvenience to the general public/commuters during road shows, issues the following instructions-

- a. Prior permission for road shows shall be taken from the Competent Authority.
- b. In order to avoid inconvenience to general public, as far as possible, road shows, subject to court orders and local laws, should be permitted only on holidays and during no-peak hours on routes other than that having big hospitals, trauma centers, blood banks and heavily crowded markets.
- c. Number of vehicles and persons joining for road show shall be intimated in advance.
- d. The road show shall not cover more than half the road width to ensure safety of the general public.
- e. The convoy of vehicles being used in road show shall be broken after every 10 vehicles and a gap of 100 meters would be maintained.
- f. Safety of public and persons in the road show shall be ensured. Bursting of fire crackers and carrying of fire arms shall not be permitted at all.
- g. The maximum size of banner to be carried with hand would be 6x4 feet.
- h. Loudspeakers can be used as per existing ECI's instruction and subject to Local Laws and Court orders on this subject.
- i. Display of animals in road shows is totally banned. Children, particularly school children in uniform, should not take part in road shows.
- j. Only one flag of the size 1 ft X ½ ft with permission of the RO concerned would be allowed on campaign vehicles in a road show.

Use of Loudspeakers in processions and election meetings

(i) A public address system or loudspeaker or any sound amplifier, whether fitted on vehicles of any kind whatsoever, or in static position, used for public meetings for electioneering purposes, shall not be used at night between 10.00 p.m. and 6.00 a.m. subject to the local law/court orders/any order of state pollution control board. Local perceptions of the security arrangements of the area and other relevant considerations like weather conditions, festival season, examination period, etc. should also be considered.

(ii) All loudspeakers whether used for general propaganda or for public meetings or procession, and whether used on moving vehicles or otherwise, shall be used during the restricted hours only mentioned above and never beyond

(iii) All loudspeaker being used beyond the hours as prescribed above, shall be used along with all the apparatus connected with the use of these loudspeakers.

(iv) The Commission has further directed that it should be ensured by the concerned authorities of state pollution control boards that decibels of the sound generated by loud speakers/amplifiers doesn't exceed the permissible limit as fixed under relevant law/guidelines. DEO shall monitor this by putting in place suitable mechanism.

(v) All political parties, candidates and any other persons using any loudspeakers on moving vehicles including but not restricted to trucks, tempos, cars, taxis, vans, three-wheeler scooters, cycle rickshaws, etc. shall intimate the registration identification number of those vehicles to the authorities granting permission to use the loudspeakers and such registration identification numbers of the vehicles shall be indicated on the permits granted by the authorities concerned.

(vi) Any vehicle on which a loudspeaker is used without the said written permit shall be confiscated forthwith along with the loudspeaker and all the apparatus used along with it.

(vii) All political parties, candidates and even other person using a loudspeaker either on a moving vehicle or at a fixed place shall intimate -

(1) the Returning Officer of the Constituency, and

(2) local Police authorities, in writing, the full details of the permits obtained by them before using any of those loudspeakers. In the case of mobile loudspeakers, the registration identification numbers of the vehicles shall also be registered by them with the Returning Officer and the local Police authorities.

(viii) It shall be the responsibility of the State Government authorities granting permits for use of loudspeakers and the local Police authorities to strictly enforce that no loudspeaker is used by anyone in violation of any of the above directions.

(ix) No loudspeakers fitted on vehicles of any kind or in any other manner whatsoever shall be permitted to be used during the period of 48 hours ending with the hour fixed for the conclusion of the poll in any polling area. Even after the close of poll proper law and order is required to be maintained till completion of election after the declaration of result. Use of loudspeakers is generally regarded as source of public nuisance and can often give rise to tension in a politically charged atmosphere. The District Administrations should, therefore, consider any

... permission to use loudspeakers after the aforesaid prohibitory period of 48 hours, on merit of each application and keeping in view the need to maintain proper law and order till the completion of election.

4. Use of flags

(i) Subject to any restrictions under any local law or any court orders in force, the political parties, candidates, their agents, workers and supporters may put up banners, buntings, flags, cut-outs, on their own property, provided they do so on their own volition, voluntarily and without any pressure from any party, organization or person, and provided further that these do not cause any inconvenience in any manner to anyone else. Also, if such display of banners, flags etc. aims to solicit vote for any particular candidate, then, under section 171 H of IPC, general or special authority in writing of candidate is necessary. The Commission has now clarified that there should be only three number of flags of a party/candidate to be used at party workers'/supporter' residence and at party offices. In case, some person wants to display flags of more than one party or candidate, then it shall be restricted to only one flag of each party/candidate. Display of flags would be subject to Local law and court orders, if any.

(ii) As far as the use of banners, flags etc. on vehicles, it shall be regulated as below-

- a. NO spot/focus/flashing/search lights and hooters shall be put on any campaign vehicle.
- b. Chief Electoral Officer shall ensure that all the provisions of local law, Court's directions and Motor vehicle Act are uniformly applied throughout the State.
- c. No person shall put any flag or banner or sticker of big size on any vehicle except with prior permission of the competent authority subject to the relevant provisions of law and Court direction/orders if any on the subject.
- d. The maximum number and size of flags/banners by a party or candidate will be as follows-
 - I. Two wheelers – one flag of maximum size 1ft X 1/2 ft. No banner will be allowed. 1 or 2 small stickers of appropriate size may be permitted on each vehicle.
 - II. Three wheelers, four wheelers, e-Rickshaws- No banner will be allowed. Only one flag of maximum size 1ft X 1/2 ft. 1 or 2 small stickers of appropriate size may be permitted on each vehicle.
 - III. It is clarified that if a political party is having a pre-poll alliance/seat sharing arrangement with another party then campaign vehicle of a candidate/political party may display one flag each of such parties.

- e. Simultaneous plying of number of vehicles on road including e-Rickshaws to be limited to 10/E and if it exceeds the limit of 10 vehicles then the convoy shall be broken after every 10/E vehicles.
- f. While using flags, or stickers on any vehicle, due care shall be taken that visibility of any of the driver (of the concerned vehicle or any other vehicle on road), passengers from front or rear view is not hampered in anyway.

(iii) Further, it is the bounden duty of the authorities concerned to ensure proper use of National Flag in the rallies and to ensure strict compliance and observation of the provisions of the Flag Code and the provisions of Emblem and names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950 and the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971.

5. Temporary Campaign Office

The candidates of various parties including independent candidates set up and operate temporary offices for the purpose of local campaign. The Commission, after taking into consideration all relevant factors, has prescribed the following guidelines to be followed in this regard:-

- (i) No such office will be opened by way of any encroachment either of public or private property.
- (ii) No such offices will be opened in any religious places or campus of such religious places.
- (iii) No such offices will be opened contiguous to any educational institution/ hospital.
- (iv) No Such offices will be opened within 200 meters of an existing polling station.
- (v) Such offices can display only one party flag and banner with party symbols/photographs.
- (vi) The size of the banner used in such offices should not exceed '4 feet X 8 feet' subject to the further condition that if the local laws prescribe a lower size for banner / hoarding etc.; then the lower size prescribed by local law shall prevail.
- (vii) The expenditure observer should closely monitor to ensure that expenditure, on it is properly booked in the account of candidate.

6. Associating defence personnel/forces with electoral campaign

The Armed Forces of a nation are the guardian of its frontiers, security and the political system. They are apolitical and neutral stakeholders in a modern democracy. It is therefore necessary that the political parties and leaders exercise great caution while making any reference to the Armed forces in their political campaigns. The Commission is of the view that:

- (i) Photographs of Chief of Army Staff or any other defence personnel and photographs of functions of Defence forces should not be associated with or used in any manner in advertisement/propaganda/campaigning or in any other manner in connection with elections by Political Parties and candidates.
- (ii) The political parties/candidates are further advised that their campaigners/candidates should desist, as part of their election campaigning, from indulging in any political propaganda involving activities of the Defence forces.

7. Prohibition of misuse of Short Message Services (SMSs)

(i) Sometimes, certain objectionable messages on Short Message Services (SMSs) are being transmitted by some persons with vested interests in the ensuing election, violating the provisions of election law, model code of conduct and the Commission's directions/instructions issued in this behalf. By the aforesaid acts, the atmosphere for free, fair and peaceful elections process may get vitiated. In this regard, the Commission has issued the following directions:

(a) For objectionable SMSs, which are violating the provisions of election law, model code of conduct and the commission's direction/instruction issued in this behalf, the Police Authorities should advertise special mobile number on which the receiver of such SMS can forward the said SMS (along with the number of the sender of the objectionable SMS). The Police authorities should initiate appropriate inquiry and trace back the original sender of such SMS and take appropriate action under the relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code, Representation of the People Act 1951, the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, instructions/direction issued there under by the Commission and any other law applicable in the case.

(b) Bulk SMS (es) transmitted during the campaign period as an alternative electioneering, as and when noticed by RO or DEO will be brought to the notice of CEO, who in turn, will find out the cost involved from the Service Provider and apportion it to the candidate or candidates concerned as the case may be.

(c) There shall be prohibition of transmitting bulk SMSs of political nature for a period of 48 hours ending with the hour fixed for conclusion of poll.

(ii) This shall be brought to the notice of all concerned immediately including Mobile Service Providers in the State and given wide publicity. A copy of this letter shall also be handed over to all Observers through the District Election Officers.

The Section 130 of Representation of the People Act, 1951 inter-alia provides that no person shall canvass for votes or exhibit any notice or signs relating to the election within the polling station on the day of poll. In view of the above, it is further clarified that wearables like caps, shawl etc. with political party's name, symbol or slogan are not allowed inside the polling stations on the poll day. However, plain cap without any symbol or slogan is not prohibited. This may be adhered to in the counting centers on the counting day also.

9. Election related campaign activities undertaken by persons other than political parties and candidates

The Commission, has laid down the following guidelines to be observed in the matter of election related campaigns by organizations and persons other than political parties/candidates, during the period when Model Code of Conduct is in operation in connection with an election:

- (i) They should not invoke, in any manner, religion or religious grounds in any manner, or any activities likely to create disharmony among different classes or groups of people, in their campaign. Such activities/ statements are prohibited being offences under various provisions of the law, like, section 125 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 sections 153A, 153B, 171C, 295A, 505(2) of the Indian Penal Code and Religious Institutions (Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1988.
- (ii) They should not indulge in any activities or make any statements that would amount to attack on personal life of any person or statements that may be malicious or offending decency and morality.
[When persons and organizations seek permission to hold public programmes, they should be asked to give a declaration/undertaking to abide by the above guidelines.]
- (iii) The public programmes of such persons and organizations should be closely monitored through videography. If anyone indulges in violation of the above guidelines' the state and district authorities concerned with the maintenance of proper law and order should take appropriate remedial and penal actions expeditiously in all such cases. Further, the District Administration shall ensure that such persons who violated the undertaking are not granted any permission to hold any further programmes during the period of that election.
- (iv) If the programmes involve incurring expense and amounts to directly promoting the electoral prospects of any particular candidate or candidates, prior special authority from the candidate

concerned for incurring the expense shall be obtained in writing, as required under Section 171H of the IPC, and such authorization should be submitted to the District Election officer within 48 hours. Any violation should result in action for prosecuting the person concerned.

10. Restrictions on presence of political functionaries in a Constituency after the campaign period is over

Under Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, in the period of 48 hours ending with the hour fixed for the close of poll, the campaign will come to an end. During the course of campaign, the political parties mobilize their supporters, including from outside the constituency of poll, in order to bolster that campaign. In view of the fact that on the closure of campaign period, no campaign can take place within the constituency, presence of political functionaries/party workers/procession functionaries/campaign functionaries etc., who have been brought from outside the constituency and who are not voters of the constituency, should not continue to remain present in the constituency as their continued presence after campaign ends may undermine the atmosphere for free and fair poll.

(i) The district election administration/police administration shall ensure that all such functionaries leave the constituency immediately after the campaign period is over. This shall be brought to the notice of all political parties, candidates and their agents in order them to comply.

(ii) The Commission further directs that in order to ensure that the above instruction is carried out, the election administration/police may take all necessary measures which may include:

- a) Checking of kalia mandapams/ community halls etc., where such people are kept housed and find out whether the outsiders have been accommodated in these premises.
- b) Verification of lodges and guesthouses to keep a track of the list of occupants.
- c) Set up check-posts in the constituency borders and track the vehicular movement from outside the constituency.
- d) Verify the identity of the people/group of people in order to find out whether they are voters or not and establish their identity.
- e) This may be brought to the notice of all concerned and ensure strict compliance. Action taken in the matter may be informed to the Commission

(iii) In case some political functionary seeks exemption on medical grounds:

- a) The DEO concerned, in consultation with CEO, would constitute a Medical Board for health check-up of the political functionary seeking exemption. The Medical Board shall, after

medical examination of the patient and his/her medical history, will give report. The condition of the patient (political leader) is such that he can't move or be shifted under medical attendance out of the constituency in an ambulance or vehicle.

- b) The exemption would only be considered by the ECI after consideration of report of the Medical Board received through CEO concerned.
- c) Such political functionary to whom exemption has been granted may be allowed to stay in the constituency subject to the condition that this is in no manner be used for any political/election related activities in any way. To ensure this, a video surveillance team shall be deployed at all the entrances of place of stay headed by a magistrate with suitable police personnel to be deployed, till completion of poll. Expenditure incurred for such stay should be duly accounted for in Election Expenditure accounts of the contesting candidates for that constituency.

11. Use of School Grounds for campaign purpose during election Process

The school and college grounds may be used for political meetings provided: -

- i) schools and colleges academic calendar are not disturbed under any circumstances.
- ii) the School/College Management has no objection for this purpose and prior permission for such campaigning is obtained from the school/college Management as well as Sub Divisional Officer.
- iii) such permission is granted on first-come-first served basis and no political party is allowed to monopolize the use of those grounds.
- iv) any violation in the allotment of school/college grounds for political meetings will be viewed seriously by the Commission. The accountability in this regard lies with the Sub Divisional Officer, and
- v) the Political Parties and candidates and campaigners shall take care to ensure that the above norms are not violated.
- vi) the ground should be returned to the authority concerned, without any damage or with the requisite compensation for the damage caused, if any. The political party/parties restoring back the campaign ground to the concerned school/college authority should be responsible for the payment of such compensation, if any.

The above instructions would apply to all States/UTs except Punjab and Haryana where there is express prohibition of the Punjab & Haryana High Court in the matter.

12. Maintenance of High Standards during Election Campaign

(i) The Commission duly recognizes the fundamental right of freedom of speech and expression under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution guaranteed to citizens of India, but it also needs to be pointed out that such right to freedom of speech and expression is not absolute and is to be exercised in such a manner that it does not transcend, inter alia, the boundaries of decency and morality or disturb public order or amount to defamation or give incitement to an offence as ordained in clause (2) of that Article 19. The Model Code of Conduct aims and seeks to achieve that very objective by its various provisions.

(ii) Hon'ble Supreme Court, in the matter of *Gadakh Yashwantrao Kankarrao Vs ES BalasahebVikhe Patil* (AIR 1994 SC 678) observed that:

“the duty of the top echelons of leadership at the state and national levels of all political parties is to set the trend for giving the needed information to the electorate by adopting desirable standards so that it percolates to the lower levels and provides a congenial atmosphere for a free and fair poll. A contrary trend of speeches by the top leaders tends to degenerate the election campaign as it descends to the lower levels and at time promotes even violence leading to criminalization of politics. The growth of this unhealthy trend is a cause for serious concern for the proper functioning of the democracy and it is the duty of the top leaders of all political parties to reverse this trend to enable movement of the functioning of democracy in the proper direction.”

(iii) The Hon'ble Apex Court has also expressed its deep concern in the matter of mixing religion and caste with election campaign, vide its Order dated 02.01.2017 in Civil Appeal No. 37 of 1992 (*Abhiram SinghVs C.D. Commachen*) and with civil appeal no. 8339 of 1995.

In view of above, the Commission's has directed that:

- a. No appeal shall be made on basis of caste/communal feelings of the electors.
- b. No activity, which may aggravate existing differences or create mutual hatred or cause tension between different castes/communities/religious/linguistic groups, shall be attempted.
- c. No aspect of the private life, not connected with the public activities, of the leaders or workers of other parties is to be criticized.
- d. Criticism of other parties or their workers on basis of unverified allegations or on distortions shall be avoided.

- e. No temples/mosques/churches/gurudwaras or any place of worship is to be used for election propaganda, including speeches, posters, music etc., or electioneering.
- f. The candidates/campaigners/political leaders are to desist from displaying photograph of defence personnel or photograph of functions involving defence personnel in advertisement, or otherwise as part of their election propaganda/campaigning. They are also advised to desist from indulging in any political propaganda involving activities of defence forces.
- g. The political leaders need to ensure that nothing in their statements may be construed as mixing of religion and caste, etc., with their election campaigns.
- h. The political parties and candidates should refrain from any deeds/action/utterances/otherwise that may be construed as being repugnant to honour and dignity of women.

(iv) Sometimes, such statements are being made from a place which is not in the state where MCC is in force due to elections. In this electronic age, when a statement is made by a political functionary, it doesn't remain confined to the audience or place where it is made but instantly travels through TV, social media or print media even to those places/states where election is going on. It undoubtedly has the pernicious effect of influencing the minds of voters of the poll bound state. The far-reaching implications of the statements made thus, disturb the level playing field and often adversely affect the peace, tranquility and harmony of the poll bound areas. The leaders should desist from making such statements which are against not only the words but also the spirit of law and the MCC, even at places where elections are not being held since it will have an undesirable impact on the mind of electors of the poll bound states/areas. The spirit of the Model Code of Conduct is not just avoidance of direct violation. It definitely also prohibits attempts to vitiate the electoral space through suggestive or indirect statements or innuendoes.

13. Campaign by Star Campaigners

In context of violation of Model Code of Conduct by star campaigners, the following actions are required to be taken on the part of the Chief Electoral Officers/District Election Officers/Returning Officers/Observers: -


- (i) For clarity and uniformity, the Commission has decided that in future, in cases involving violation of Model Code of Conduct or any provision of law by any candidate duly set up by the party, or by the leaders of political parties whose names have been communicated by the party to the Election Commission/Chief Electoral Officer in terms of Explanations 1 & 2 under sub-section (1) of Section 77 of Representation of the People Act, 1951, if notice is

issued to any such leader, or any candidate of the political party, a notice will also be issued to the political party concerned. It may be noted that leaders are nominated by the political parties under the aforesaid Explanation Clauses 'for propagating programme of the political party'. Therefore, it would only be reasonable and logical to hold the political party concerned responsible for any act of omission or commission by such leaders. In this context, attention of political parties is also invited to the provisions of paragraph 16A of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968.

- (ii) The campaign by the leaders specified under Section 77(1) [star campaigners] should be meticulously tracked. Any violation by Star Campaigner observed by the District Election Officers and Returning Officers in their respective district/constituency, shall immediately be brought to the notice of the Chief Electoral Officer for taking appropriate guidance/approval. The Chief Electoral Officer shall report the action taken to the Commission for immediate follow up action so that the action receives required visibility.
- (iii) The Chief Electoral Officers and District Election Officers shall maintain a party-wise register to track the instances of violations being committed by various candidates and campaigners of various political parties. This should be a sort of daily register indicating names of the candidate, campaigner and political party. Brief description of violation, date of violation, follow up action taken and the order passed by any election official/the Commission, if any.
- (iv) The above document (violation index) should also to be put in public domain so that interested parties including the media can pick up the input and this may work as a deterrence for the candidates and political parties against indulging in any violation.

The above instructions of the Commission shall be brought to notice of all concerned for strict compliance.

Yours faithfully,


(NARENDRA N. BUTOLIA)
SR. PRINCIPAL SECRETARY