

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001.

No.4/2008/SDR

Dated : 29th January, 2009.

To

Chief Electoral Officers of all
States / Union Territories.

Subject:- Videographing of critical events relating to the conduct of elections – Supply of
CDs – regarding.

Sir,

I am directed to say that the Commission has issued standing directions that all critical events relating to the conduct of elections by the election authorities as well as the election campaign conducted by candidates and their political parties should be videographed. Instructions have also been issued that the Observers of the Commission shall also get videographed the events which they consider as having important bearing on the conduct of elections. In particular, the Commission has instructed that the Observers and other officers concerned with the conduct of elections should keep a watch on code of conduct including election expense of the candidates and political parties and have the public meetings, speeches and processions of important leaders videographed so as to serve as evidence in any examination by the Commission.

2. The CDs of such critical events videographed will serve as relevant pieces of evidence, if any of the rival candidates or political parties wish to raise the question of any irregularity in the course of an election campaign before an appropriate authority. The Commission desires that at the time of elections adequate publicity may be given through all media of mass communication that the CDs of all critical events recorded by the election authorities would be available to anyone who intends to obtain a copy of the same. The CEOs

may fix a reasonable cost for the supply of these CDs having regard to the cost incurred in the preparation of copies of these CDs.

3. The DEOs/ROs/other election authorities concerned may also be informed of the above decision of the Commission for necessary action at their end. All such CDs should be very carefully preserved by them with appropriate labeling for easy retrieval when needed by the Commission or other election authorities, or for sale to the interested persons.

4. The Commission has also directed that the accounts of election expenses submitted by the contesting candidates during the election, as required under section 78 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, should be carefully examined by the Observers and the DEOs and wherever they observe, on such examination, that a CD containing the videography of any public meeting or procession etc., in relation to which the candidate has shown any expenditure in his aforesaid accounts statement, is available with the DEO/RO, the fact about the availability of such CD should also be prominently brought out in the notice which the DEO displays for general information giving the intimation about the abovementioned accounts having been filed before him.

5. Copy of this letter may be furnished to all political parties based in your State/Union Territory.

6. Kindly acknowledge receipt.

Yours faithfully,

(K.F. WILFRED)
SECRETARY

Copy to all recognized National/State Parties.