

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA
Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No.464/INST/2009/EPS/

Dated : 25th April, 2009

To

The Chief Electoral Officer of
All States/Union Territories.

**Sub: Election/polling/counting agent- prohibition against appointment of
Minister/MP/MLA/MLC, etc.**

Sir/Madam,

Please refer to the Commission's letter Nio464/INST/2009/EPS, dated 14th October, 2008, regarding appointment of election agent, polling agent and counting agent. As per the decision of the Commission communicated through the said letter no sitting Minister, MP, MLA, MLC, or any other persons with security cover provided by the State would be allowed to act as election agent, polling agent or counting agent on behalf of any candidate. As explained in the said letter, Minister/MP/MLA/MLC, etc. acting as an agent of a candidate would not be desirable from the point of view of maintaining level playing field among the candidates and political parties. It is clarified that the prohibition of being election/polling/counting agent, would also apply to Mayor of Corporation, Chairman of Municipality/Zilla Parishad/Panchayats Union, etc. also. A large number of employees of local authorities are deployed on election duty. Therefore, a Mayor of Corporation or Chairman of Municipality/ Zilla Parishad/Pancharyat Union, etc acting as agent for a candidate will be improper and would be contrary to the spirit of level playing field.

The contents of this letter may be brought to the notice of all political parties and candidates in the State.

Yours faithfully,

(SUMIT MUKHERJEE)
UNDER SECRETARY