

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No.437/6/INST/2008-CC&BE

Dated: 21st April, 2009

To

- 1) The Cabinet Secretary
Cabinet Secretariat
Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi.
- 2) The Chief Secretaries of
All States and Union Territories
- 3) The Chief Electoral Officers of
All States and Union Territories

Subject: Model Code of Conduct- Tours of Chairmen and Members of Commissions like the National Commission for Scheduled Castes, etc - regarding.

Sir,

I am directed to state that on a reference from the National Commission for Scheduled Castes, this Commission had issued instructions on the subject vide its letter No. 437/6/2007-PLN-III (Vol. V) dated 3.12.2007(copy enclosed). There has been subsequent reference from the National Economically Backward Classes Commission on the subject. The Election Commission has considered the issue raised by that Commission. Taking into account all aspects of the matter, the Commission has now decided to issue the following instructions in the matter, which will be applicable to Chairmen and Members of various Commissions like the National Commission for Scheduled Castes, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, National Commission for Minorities, National Commission for Backward Classes , National Commission for Economically Backward Classes , etc , during the elections.

2. The Election Commission is aware of the fact that the various Commissions like, the National Commission for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, National Economically Backward Classes Commission, National Commission for Minorities etc. are entrusted with certain responsibilities connected with the welfare of the respective communities. In this context, the Commission would like to stress that during enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct, unless it becomes unavoidable in an emergent situation, the official visits of the Members of the said Commissions to the States going to polls may be deferred. In case of any emergency which calls for an immediate field visit and review by the Members of the Commissions mentioned above which cannot be avoided or deferred in public interest, a programme for their visit can be made under intimation to the Chief Electoral Officer of the State concerned. However, the Secretary of the said Commissions must take enough precaution that the visit is kept totally official and no political activity is undertaken by the Chairmen/Members during their visit. In such a situation, the Secretary of the Commissions should furnish a certificate to the Commission to the above effect before the visit is undertaken. A copy of the said certificate shall also be endorsed to the Chief Secretary as well as the Chief Electoral Officer of the State/UT where the visit is being undertaken.

3. It is further clarified that, during such visits, the Chairmen/Members should not meet any Ministers/Politicians and they should also not hold public hearings or meet the public. Their meetings etc should be only with the Government officials.

4. The above instructions would be applicable *mutatis mutandis* to similar Commissions established by the State Governments.

5. This may be brought to the notice of all concerned Ministries/Departments/ Commissions like National Commission for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, National Economically Backward Classes Commission,

National Commission for Backward Classes, National Commission for Minorities
etc. immediately.

Yours faithfully,

(K. N. BHAR)
UNDER SECRETARY