

# ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

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

**Dated: 9<sup>th</sup> 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: Applicability of Model Code of Conduct - Use of Aircraft / Helicopter by Political Parties - regarding.**

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to state that the Commission has already issued detailed instructions regarding use of Government aircraft / helicopter owned by the Government and Public Sector Undertakings. As per these existing instructions, during the election process there is a complete ban on use of aircraft by political functionaries including Chief Minister and Ministers. The only exemption is for the Prime Minister in office.

Requests have been received from some of the Chief Ministers for relaxation of these restrictions for various reasons including those of security.

The Commission reviewed the matter in depth and obtained further inputs from appropriate quarters in this regard. After taking into consideration all relevant factors into account, the Commission has decided that the existing instructions in the matter will stand and there shall be no relaxation in the matter for any reason.

The Commission's existing restrictions do not however prohibit use of private aircraft by such political functionaries including Chief Ministers. Accordingly the Commission makes it clear that such political functionaries including Chief Ministers may, if required, hire private aircrafts and use them for their political campaign and other election related activities.

Kindly acknowledge the receipt.

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Yours faithfully

**(K.N. BHAR)**  
**UNDER SECRETARY**