

# ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001.

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F. No. 56/Misc./2012

Dated: 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2012

To,

(i) The President/General Secretary,  
All Recognised National and State Political Parties

Sub:- Use of animals in election process- regarding.

Sir/Madam

The Commission has received representations from certain individuals and organisations alleging that animals like horses, ponies, donkeys, elephants, camels, bulls, etc. are subjected to cruelty in different ways, in connection with election campaign. It is alleged that the animals are often made to carry loads beyond permissible limits, made to work for long hours, and some candidates even paint slogans and election symbols on animals using harmful chemicals.

2. The Commission has considered the matter. The cadres/workers of political parties and candidates, in their enthusiasm, should not lose sight of the legal provisions dealing with cruelty to animals. Article 51 A (g) of the Constitution of India calls for compassion for living creatures and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 and Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 prohibit over- drives, over loads and torture of animals. Further, the use of animals for work is regulated by the Prevention of Cruelty to Draught and Pack Animals Rules, 1965.

3. Having regard to the above, the Commission hereby advises the Political Parties and candidates that they should refrain from using any animals for election campaign in any manner. If at all use of animals is

unavoidable for any particular reason, they should ensure that there is no violation of any of the legal provisions mentioned in para 2 above and no cruelty in any form, is meted out to the animals.

4. The Commission also invites the attention of the recognised political parties with reserved symbols depicting animal or bird, to the directions already given by the Commission in the past that they shall ensure that no cruelty is shown to that animal or bird in any manner, and no live demonstration of that animal or bird is made in any of the Party's, or any of their candidates' election campaign.

5. Please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

( K.F. WILFRED)  
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY

Copy to:-

The President/ General Secretary of all registered unrecognised parties  
(through the CEOs of their States/ Union Territories).

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F. No. 56/Misc./2012

Dated: 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2012

To,

All the CEOs of States/ State Election Commissioners

Sub:- Use of animals in election process- regarding.

Sir/Madam

The Commission has received representations alleging that during election process animals like horses, ponies, donkeys, elephants, camels and bulls are used for various purposes, in many cases, in violation of various legal provisions. It is alleged that animals are made to carry loads beyond the permissible limit, and made to work for long hours, without adequate food and water.

2. Apart from the provisions of Article 51 A (g) of the Constitution of India which calls for compassion for living creatures, the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 and Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 prohibit over- drives, over loads and torture of animals. Further, the use of animals for work is regulated by the Prevention of Cruelty to Draught and Pack Animals Rules, 1965.

3. In some parts of the country due to geographical conditions and other reasons, there may be cases where animals are required to be used for carrying election materials, etc. While every effort may be made to minimise the use of animals, where such use becomes unavoidable, the

Commission has directed that it shall be ensured that there is no cruelty meted out to the animals, and that there is no violation of any of the legal provisions mentioned in para 2 above.

4. The Chief Electoral Officers are also requested to bring these instructions to the notice of the District Election Officers, Returning Officers and all other election related authorities for information and compliance. The DEOs and ROs should also be instructed that at the time of elections, in the meeting with political parties and candidates, they should be advised to make sure that they do not violate the provisions of any of the above mentioned laws.

5. The Commission has also addressed separate letter to the political parties in this regard, a copy of which is enclosed. It is requested that copy of the letter to the political parties may be got delivered to all political parties based in your State/UT, including State Units of recognised National Parties and State Parties of other States.

6. Please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(K.F. WILFRED)  
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY