



भारत निर्वाचन आयोग
Election Commission of India

निर्वाचन सदन
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No. 322/ECI/INST/FUNC/BIEN-LC /2016

Dated: 26th December, 2016

To

- The Chief Electoral Officers
1. Maharashtra, Mumbai,
 2. Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow,
 3. Bihar, Patna,
 4. Karnataka, Bangalore,
 5. Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.
 6. Telangana, Hyderabad.

Subject: Biennial/Bye-Elections to the Legislative Councils from Council Constituencies - by Graduates' and Teachers' and Local Authorities' Constituencies- MCC-instructions - regarding.

Sir,

I am directed to state that some experience during conduct of elections to Legislative Councils shows that there is lack of clarity with regard to applicability of provisions of Model Code of Conduct in such elections.

2 The Commission constituted a Working Group to examine the matter. The Commission, having considered the report of the Working Group and the matter in its entirety, has directed that all provisions of Model Code of Conduct for the political parties and candidates' shall apply *mutatis mutandis* in Biennial including Bye Elections to the State Legislative Councils from Graduates' & Teachers' Constituencies as well as Local Authorities' Constituencies. Consequently, various instructions issued by the Commission from time to time in clarification of the MCC provisions would also apply for such elections.

3. I am further to say that the following instructions of the Commission which have been issued from time to time to ensure level playing field and also to ensure that a party in power doesn't misuse its position for electoral gains, shall also be applicable in connection with Biennial/Bye Elections to the State Legislative Councils from Graduates' & Teachers' Constituencies as well as Local Authorities' Constituencies (from the date of announcement of election till the date of completion of election).

1 of 5

- I. Ministers, whether Central or State (including Chief Minister) may make official visit to any district(s) in which any Biennial/Bye-election from a Council Constituency is being held subject to the following conditions: -
 - a. They shall not do any inauguration/laying of foundation stones of any educational institution, which are constituents of Graduates' and Teachers' Constituencies.
 - b. Official visit shall not be combined with the election related work/tours.
 - c. There shall be no announcement of new policy programme/ policy likely to influence the graduates, the teachers and members of Local Authorities who form the electorate of the Constituencies going to poll.
- II. No official of any rank of the district(s) dealing with election related work where the biennial/bye-elections are being held shall be called to attend any meeting by any Minister at any place, even in another district, where election is not being held. Any official who meets the Minister on his private visit to the constituency where elections are being held shall be deemed to be guilty of misconduct under the relevant service rules; and if he happens to be an officer mentioned in Section 129 (1) of the Representation of People Act, 1951, he shall also be additionally considered to have violated the statutory provisions of that section and liable to penal action provided there under.
- III. No member of any Local Authority which forms part of the electorate of a Local Authorities' Constituency shall be called for any meeting/video conference by any Minister (in his capacity as Minister). Routine meetings of the Local Bodies, when essential, may be held with the prior permission of the District Election Officer of the District concerned.
- IV. No pilot car(s) or other car(s) with beacon lights of any colour or car(s) affixed with sirens of any kind making his presence conspicuous shall be used by any Minister during his private visit to the constituency, even if the State administration has granted him a security cover requiring presence of armed guards accompanying him on tour.
- V. No policy announcement or programme, which influences the electorate either directly or indirectly, shall be initiated in the Government Departments till the completion of elections.

- VI. On need basis and in consultation with CEO of the state/ECI Observer, the DEO/RO should put in place for every tehsil a special video team to videograph political meeting at public places and to record visits of the Ministers and other important political functionaries. The ECI observer shall see the video recording in the evening of the same day so that he can report any violation to the Commission in prescribed format.
- VII. In case of elections from Local Authorities' Constituencies, the restrictions on "Official Tours" by Central & State Ministers will also be applicable to the use of any "Official Cars" by "Office Bearers" of Local Authorities, like, Mayors of Municipal Corporations, Presidents of Municipal Councils & Zilla Parishads. The use of official cars by them shall only be allowed for travel to & from Office to Residence.
- VIII. Public places such as maidans etc., for holding election meetings, and use of helipads for air-flights in connection with elections shall not be monopolized by the party in power. Other parties and candidates shall also be allowed to use them on first-cum-first served basis.
- IX. No fresh Sanction of work using the IT Platform to be used depending upon the MP/MLA/MLC schemes for work that would amount to influencing the electorate.
- X. There shall be a total ban on the transfer of Returning Officers and Assistant Returning Officers appointed for Biennial elections/bye-elections to State Legislative Councils after the announcement of elections and this ban will be in force till the completion of elections. The transfer orders in respect of the above officers issued prior to the date of announcement but not implemented should not be given effect to without obtaining the specific permission of the Commission. In those cases, where transfer of an officer is necessary on account of administrative exigencies, the State Govt. may with full justification approach the Commission for prior clearance.
- XI. In order to conduct free and fair elections to keep a check on adverse role of money power and to check the movement of black money during biennial elections/bye-elections to Legislative Council, the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) issued on 29.05.2015, excepting deployment of Static Surveillance Teams, should be made applicable.

