

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No. ECI/PN/56/2015

Dated: 18th September, 2015

PRESS NOTE

Subject: General Election to Legislative Assembly of Bihar, 2015 - Allotment of Broadcast/Telecast time to Political Parties - regarding.

A copy of the Order No.437/TA-LA2015/Communication, dated 18th September, 2015 issued by the Commission regarding allotment of Broadcast/Telecast time to political parties in the General Election to Legislative Assemblies of Bihar, 2015 is enclosed for the information of the general public.



(Dhirendra Ojha)
Director

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ORDER

At the time of General Elections to the Lok Sabha in 1998, a new initiative for State funding of recognized political parties through free use of the State owned Television and Radio was introduced under directions of the Commission vide its Order, dated 16th January, 1998. The said scheme was subsequently extended in all the General Elections to the State Assemblies held after 1998 and General Elections to the Lok Sabha in 1999, 2004, 2009 & 2014.

With the amendments to the Representation of the People Act, 1951 vide "Election and Other Related Laws (Amendment) Act, 2003" and the rules notified there under, equitable time sharing for campaigning by recognized political parties on electronic media now has statutory basis. In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (a) of the Explanation below section 39A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the Central Govt. has notified all such broadcasting media which are owned or controlled or financed wholly or substantially by funds provided to them by the Central Government as the electronic media for the purposes of that section. Therefore, the Commission has decided to extend the said scheme of equitable time sharing on electronic media through Prasar Bharati Corporation to the ensuing General Elections to the Legislative Assembly of Bihar.

The facilities of use of broadcast time and telecast time will be available only to 'National Parties' and 'Recognized State Party' in respect of Bihar.

THE SALIENT FEATURES OF THE SCHEME ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. The facilities will be available from the Regional Kendra of the All India Radio and Doordarshan and in the headquarters of Bihar and relayed by other stations within Bihar.

Time allotted for Telecast/Broadcast:

2. A base time of 45 minutes will be given to each National Party and Recognized State Party (recognized in respect of Bihar) uniformly on the Regional Kendras of Doordarshan network and All India Radio network in the State of Bihar.
3. The additional time to be allotted to the parties has been decided on the basis of the poll performance of the parties in the last assembly election from the State of Bihar.
4. In a single session of broadcast, no party will be allocated more than 15 minutes.

Date of Telecasts/Broadcasts:

5. The period of broadcast and telecast will be between the last date of filing the nominations and two days before the date of poll (in each phase) in the State of Bihar.
6. The Prasar Bharati Corporation in consultation with the Commission will decide the actual date and time for broadcast and telecast. This will be subject to the broad technical constraints governing the actual time of transmission available with the Doordarshan and All India Radio.

