

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

NIRVACHAN SADAN ASHOKA ROAD NEW DELHI-110001

No. ECI/PN/7/2017

Dated: 8th January, 2017

Press Note

Subject: Election Commission of India briefs Expenditure Observers for the forthcoming Assembly elections in the States of Goa, Punjab, Manipur, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.

Chief Election Commissioner, Dr. Nasim Zaidi, Election Commissioners, Shri A.K.Joti, and Shri O.P. Rawat briefed the Expenditure Observers drawn from various services, like, IRS, IC&CES, IRAS, IDAS, ICAS and IA&AS in the briefing meeting held in New Delhi on 8th January, 2017.

Addressing the Expenditure Observers, Chief Election Commissioner Dr. Nasim Zaidi emphasised on understanding and implementing the new instructions issued by the Commission. He stressed that for the sake of transparency, donations received by the candidates and political parties in excess of Rs. 20,000 should not be in cash and also that if any payment is made to any individual or entity during the course of election, exceeding Rs. 20,000, it should only be through account payee cheque. He reiterated the requirement for candidates to open separate bank accounts at the time of nomination and to incur all election related expenditure through that specific account only.

He applauded the efforts of Expenditure Observers in the Assembly elections held last year, which led to major seizures resulting in the increased faith among the electors and emphasised the need of proper linkages between permission system by district Election Machinery and accounting team.

Election Commissioner, Shri A.K.Joti emphasised that the expenditure incurred on the candidate's booths for distribution of voter's slips on the day of poll, should be accounted for in the account of the candidate.

Election Commissioner, Shri O.P.Rawat expressed concern over the use of partially or fully owned newspapers and channels by the candidate or their sponsoring party and referred to the new instruction issued by the commission that the expenditure on the same is to be included in the account of the candidate as per notified rate cards.



Briefing of Expenditure Observers by the Election Commission of India

The Expenditure Observers were also briefed by Deputy Election Commissioners, Shri Umesh Sinha, Shri Vijay Dev, Director Generals, Shri Dilip Sharma, Shri Sudeep Jain, Directors Shri Dharendra Ojha and Shri Vikram Batra. The Observers were briefed in detail about the mechanism of election expenditure monitoring and also touched upon the issues pertaining to the conduct of elections, awareness initiatives undertaken by the Commission and the law and order issues being faced by the poll going States.

The briefing was also attended by the Legal Advisor, Shri S.K.Mendiratta and Principal Secretary, Shri S.K.Rudola along with other senior officers of the Commission.

The Election Commission of India has deployed approximately two hundred Expenditure Observers in the five poll-going States.

(Dhirendra Ojha)
Director