

Election Commission of India

Nirvachan sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No. 491/RPA/2017/Communication

Date: 3rd April, 2018

To,

1. All Media
2. All recognized National Parties
& State Parties recognized in Karnataka
3. Chief Electoral Officer, Karnataka

Subject: General Election to the Legislative Assembly of Karnataka – Media coverage during the period referred to in Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

Sir/Madam,

In January, 2018, the Commission, in the wake of expansion and diversity of media platforms and to address the challenges in regulation and control on the display of 'election matter' during the period of last 48 hours, as provided in Sec. 126 of RPA 1951, constituted a high level Committee. Apart from senior officers from ECI one representative each from M/o Information & Broadcasting, M/o Law & Justice, M/o Electronics and IT, Press Council of India and News Broadcasters Association are also the members of this Committee.

2. The Committee will study and examine the present provisions of Section 126 and other related Sections of the R. P. Act, 1951 and identify difficulties/critical gaps to regulate the violation of the said provisions of the act, particularly during the prohibitory period of 48 hours and suggest necessary amendment/modification.

3. As soon as the Committee submits its report, the Commission will consider it and forward to the Ministry of Law & Justice, Govt. of India for making necessary amendments/modifications in the present provisions of Section 126 and other related Sections of the R. P. Act, 1951

4. During this time, all present provisions provided in the R. P. Act, 1951 shall prevail and binding for all. Therefore, guidelines issued vide Commission's Press Note No. ECI/PN/27/2018 dt. 3rd April, 2018 (copy attached) should be observed in letter & spirit in all the media coverage during the ongoing Karnataka Assembly Election.

Yours Faithfully,



(Pawan Diwan)
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