

By Fax / Speed Post

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi - 110001.

No. 322/KT-LC/2016-BE

Dated : 10th May, 2016

To

1. ✓ The Cabinet Secretary,
Government of India,
Rashtrapati Bhawan,
New Delhi.
2. The Chief Secretary to the Government of
Karnataka, Bangalore.
3. The Chief Electoral Officer,
Karnataka, Bangalore.

Subject: Biennial election to the Karnataka Legislative Council from 2-Graduates' & 2-Teachers' Constituencies - Applicability of Model Code of Conduct - regarding.

Sir,

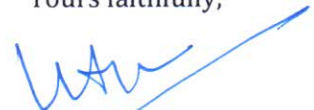
I am directed to state that the Commission has announced biennial election to the Karnataka Legislative Council from **Karnataka North-West & Karnataka South Graduates' Constituencies and Karnataka North-West & Karnataka West Teachers' Constituencies** vide its Press Note No. ECI/PN/ 42 /2016 dated 10th May, 2016.

2. With this announcement, the following provisions of the Model Code of Conduct for the guidance of the Political Parties and Candidates have come into force with immediate effect in the district(s) comprised in the above mentioned Constituencies, which is going to poll. This may be brought to the notice of the Government, all Ministries/Departments and all other offices of the Union Government and the concerned State Governments:-

- i) Ministers, whether Central or State (including Chief Minister) can 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: -
 1. They shall not do any inauguration/laying of foundation stones of any institutions, which are constituents of Local Authorities' Constituencies mentioned above.
 2. Official visit shall not be combined with the election related work/tours.
 3. There shall be no announcement of new policy programme/policy likely to influence the electors of above mentioned Local Authorities' Constituencies.

- ii) No official of any rank of the district(s) dealing with election related work where the elections are being held shall be called to attend any meeting by any Minister at any place; if such meetings is called by Ministers are related to issues of the Local Authorities' mentioned Above.
 - iii) Any official who meets the Minister on his private visit to the Constituency where the said election is 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 thereunder.
 - iv) No pilot car(s) or 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 constituencies, 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 would be initiated in the Government Departments related to the constituents of the election under reference. For example, if the election is from a Local Authorities' Constituency, no programme or policy could be initiated by Urban or Rural Local Bodies Department. Likewise, for Teachers' Constituencies, no new policy or programme will be initiated/ announced by the Education Department dealing with the teachers. In the case of elections from Graduates' Constituencies, no programme/ policy likely to influence the graduates shall be announced, such as Un-Employment Allowance, new Employment Schemes, etc.
 - vi) The Commission has directed that a special video team shall be put in place for every Tehsil. Every political meeting shall be videographed. Ministers and other important political functionaries visiting the District shall be video-trailed. Copy of the video recording shall be given to the Observers by the evening of the same day. The Observers will go through it and report any violation to the Commission. The Observers will submit reports as per the seven formats prescribed for Assembly/ Parliament Elections.
 - vii) In addition, ECI instructions relating to defacement of public & private properties, shall also be applicable.
3. The receipt of this letter may kindly be acknowledged.

Yours faithfully,



(K. AJAYA KUMAR)
SENIOR PRINCIPAL SECRETARY