

By Fax / Speed Post

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi - 110001.

No. 322/MT-LC/2014(G&T)-CC&BE

Dated: 20th May, 2014

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 Secretary to the Government of
Maharashtra, Mumbai.
4. The Chief Electoral Officer,
Karnataka, Bangalore.
5. The Chief Electoral Officer,
Maharashtra, Mumbai.

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

Sir,

I am directed to state that the Commission has announced the biennial elections to the Maharashtra Legislative Council from the following Constituencies vide its Press Note No. ECI/PN/26/2014 dated 20th May, 2014.

Karnataka	Maharashtra
1. Karnataka South-East Graduates'	1. Aurangabad Division Graduates'
2. Karnataka West Graduates'	2. Pune Division Graduates'
3. Karnataka North-East Teachers'	3. Nagpur Division Graduates'
4. Bangalore Teachers'	4. Amravati Division Teachers
	5. Pune Division Teachers'

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:-

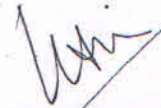
- i) Ministers, whether Central or State (including Chief Minister) can make official visit to any district(s) in which any Biennial/Bye-election from a Council Constituency is being held subject to the following conditions:-
- a. They shall not do any inauguration/ laying of foundation stones of any 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, and the teachers, 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, if such meetings called by Ministers are related to issues of the Educational Institutions which are constituents of Graduates' and Teachers' Constituencies.
- 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 the 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, the provisions of Model Code of Conduct and ECI instructions applicable to Assembly Elections, with regard 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)
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY