

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001.

No.437/6/COMP/2008-CC&BE

Dated : 2nd April, 2009.

To

The Cabinet Secretary,
Cabinet Secretariat,
Rashtrapati Bhawan,
New Delhi.

Subject:- Press Conferences of Ministers – regarding.

Sir,

I am directed to state that the Commission is aware of the normal practice of the Union Ministers addressing press conferences after meetings of the Council of Ministers or as and when any issue of public importance relating to the ministry concerned needs to be brought in public domain. Now that the Model Code of Conduct is in force throughout India in view of the current general elections to the Lok Sabha and the Legislative Assemblies of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Sikkim, the Commission would like to advise that such press conferences should be avoided, as far as possible, and the practice of issuing press releases may be resorted to in such cases. Where, however, the holding of a press conference becomes unavoidable in public interest, preferably an appropriate official may address the press conference.

The receipt of this letter may kindly be acknowledged and the action taken in the matter informed to the Commission urgently.

Yours faithfully,

(K. AJAY KUMAR)
SECRETARY