

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA  
Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-11001

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No.ECI/PN / 7 /2009

Dated 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2009

**PRESS NOTE**

The Commission took a meeting with the Chief Secretaries and Director General of Police of all States and Union Territories to review the election preparedness and the security arrangements required for conduct of elections.

2. The Commission directed that no efforts should be spared to conduct free and fair elections. The Commission directed the States and Union Territories to ensure that all officials who have been posted at one place for more than 3 years in the last 4 years, or those who are posted in their home districts, should be immediately transferred out, and compliance report sent by 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2009. The Commission also directed that all critical posts from the point of view of conduct of elections be filled up on priority basis by 20<sup>th</sup> February, 2009.

3. State Chief Secretaries and DGPs put forth their views on schedule and phasing of election, security force requirements and other logistics including the requirements of Helicopters, speed boats, satellite phones etc.

4. The Commission noted the suggestions and requirements put forth by the States and directed them to make adequate budget provisions, strengthen CEO's office and identify a nodal officer to coordinate the movement and logistics of the additional forces that would be mobilized and inducted from outside into the States.

5. The Commission further directed the State Chief Secretaries and DGPs to develop most effective deployment parameters in consultation with State CEOs and work out the force requirement and force deployment plan. The Commission would review these force deployment plans statewide on their visit to states to monitor election preparedness. Some of the States requested the Election Commission of India to take up with BSNL to set up communication towers in areas which are difficult to access and where the signals do not reach.

6. The Commission directed to DGPs to make adequate advance arrangements for the forces that would be inducted from outside and to take care of their basic convenience. In this connection, the Commission also directed the State Governments to ensure a quick and adequate compensation package for any injury or casualty suffered on poll duties.

7. The states were also briefed on the need to check inter-state movement of miscreants, and the need to have regional cooperation and information sharing arrangement in this regard. Especially in the Naxal affected areas of States that are contiguous to each other and spread over many states, the DGPs, were advised to be vigilant and take into account the happenings in the neighbouring states.

8. The Commission also asked the states to vigorously pursue all election related cases to their logical conclusion, execute non-bailable warrants and undertake identification of vulnerable areas that would need extra-protection in the light of forthcoming elections.

(S.K.RUDOLA)  
SECRETARY