

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No. 464/INST/2009/EPS

Dated: 1st May, 2009.

To

1. The Chief Secretaries of all states/UTs
2. The Chief Electoral Officers of all States/UTs

Subject :- Engagement of child labour in the election process- Regarding.

Sir/Madam

I am directed to state that it has come to the notice of the Commission that children were employed for carrying electronic voting machines at Bhagalpur, Bihar during the ongoing general election, 2009. (A copy of photograph published in a newspaper is enclosed)

As you are aware that Child Labour Act, bans the employment of children below 14 years of age in specified occupations such as transport of goods etc. which are considered unsafe and harmful to child workers and regulates the conditions of work of children in employment. It also lays down penalties for employment of children in violation of the provisions of this Act, other Acts which forbid the employment of children. The Act extends to the whole of India. The child labour Act of 1986 applies to all establishments and workshops wherein any industrial process is carried on (excluding one covered under Section 67 of the Factories Act, 1948).

The Commission has taken strong exception to use of children in work connected with elections. It is highly objectionable. In order to ensure that no such insensitivity is shown by the election related officials anywhere in the country, the

Commission has directed that such violation of child rights for any work connected with the election process is in no way acceptable to the Commission. The District Election Officers/Retuning Officers shall be informed that they will be personally held responsible for any such violation and will face severe disciplinary action apart from facing the consequences of law, if any such instance comes to the notice of the Commission.

Yours faithfully

(SUMIT MUKHERJEE)
UNDER SECRETARY

DELHI

THE HINDU • THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2009

P. 11

Heavy duty on tender heads



NO KIDDING: Children carrying electronic voting machines on the eve of the third phase of Lok Sabha elections in Bhagalpur constituency of Bihar on Wednesday. — PHOTO: RANJEET KUMAR