

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

NIRVACHAN SADAN, ASHOKA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

No. 437/6/INST/2014-CC&BE

Dated: 20th March 2014

To

1. The Cabinet Secretary to the Govt. of India,
Rashtrapati Bhawan,
New Delhi.
2. The Chief Secretaries to the Governments of
all States and Union Territories
3. The Chief Electoral Officers of
all States and Union Territories

Sub: Instructions relating to deletion of all references on politicians/Ministers on the official website during election period of General/Bye-elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies- reg.

Sir,

I am directed to state that the Commission vide its letter No. 437/6/2007 (INST)-PLN-III, dated 21st November, 2007, issued instructions to deletion of all references on politicians/Ministers on the official website during election period of General/Bye-elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies.

It has come to the notice of the Commission that the aforesaid instructions of the Commission are not being followed by Central and State Governments during election period. It is clearly mentioned in clause VII (iv) of Model Code of Conduct for guidance of Political parties and candidate:-

“VII. Party in Power

The party in power whether at the Centre or in the State or States concerned, shall ensure that no cause is given for any complaint that it has used its official position for the purpose of its election campaign and in particular

(iv) Issues of advertisement at the cost of public exchequer in the newspapers and other media and the misuse of official mass media during the election period for partisan coverage of political news and publicity regarding achievements with a view to furthering the prospects of the party in power shall be scrupulously avoided.”

The Commission has considered the question of various references currently available in the Ministerial office website and in the State Government websites pertaining to several

Department and Government Organization highlighting their achievements but eulogizing the same as personal achievements of Politicians/Ministers.

The Commission has decided that during the period when Model Code of Conduct is in force in connection with General Election to the Lok Sabha/State Legislative Assemblies currently going on, all references of Ministers, Politicians or Political Parties available on such Central/State Government's official website, shall be removed.

The above instruction of the Commission may kindly be communicated to all concerned for strict compliance.

Yours faithfully,

(K. AJAY KUMAR)
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY

Copy to all Zonal Secretary/Under Secretary/Section of ECI.