

Lok Sabha Elections-2014
Urgent/Email/Through Messenger

Election Department, Government of Himachal Pradesh
38-SDA Complex, Kasumpti, Shimla-9

No: 3-13/2014-ELN- 926

Dated: 18th March, 2014.

From:

Chief Electoral Officer,
Himachal Pradesh.

To

1. The Chief Secretary to the Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-171002.
2. The Addl. Chief Secretaries, Government of Himachal Pradesh Shimla-171002.
3. The Principal Secretary to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-171002.
4. All Administrative Secretaries to the Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-171002.
5. All Heads of Departments, Stationed at Shimla.
6. Divisional Commissioner, Shimla/Kangra/Mandi.
7. All Deputy Commissioners in Himachal Pradesh.

Subject:- General Elections to Lok Sabha, 2014 – Instructions on Tours of Ministers and use of Aircraft/Official Vehicles.

Sir/Madam,

In continuation of this department's letter of even number dated 11th March, 2014, on the above cited subject and to enclose herewith the following letters of Election Commission of India on tours of Ministers for information and necessary action.

1.	437/6/2007-PLN-III, dated 23.11.2007	Tours of ministers-General Elections.
2.	437/6/INST/2011-CC&BE, dated 24.3.2011	Tours of Chief Ministers-reg.
3.	437/6/INST/2011-CC&BE, dated 1.4.2011	Tours of Chief Ministers-reg.

...2...

392/14
21 MAR 2014



...2...

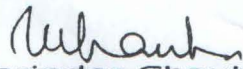
It is reiterated again that the official machinery is in no way engaged in any election related work during the tours of Ministers in order to ensure a level playing field which is a precondition for free and fair elections.

You are, therefore, requested to adhere to the Commission's instructions contained in the aforesaid letters specifically para 2 (1) to 2(3) contained in the Commission's letter No. 437/6/2007-PLN-III, dated 23.11.2007 during the ensuing Lok Sabha Elections-2014.

Please acknowledge receipt alongwith enclosures.

Yours faithfully,

Encl.: As above.

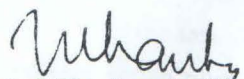

(Narinder Chauhan)
Chief Electoral Officer,
Himachal Pradesh.

Endst.No.3-13/2014-ELN, A2B Dated: Shimla-171009, 18th March, 2014.

Copy alongwith copies of Commission's aforesaid letters are forwarded to:-

1. The Secretary to the Hon'ble Governor, Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-2.
2. Private Secretaries to the Hon'ble Cabinet Ministers, Himachal Pradesh Government, Shimla.
3. The Secretary, Vidhan Sabha for information of Hon'ble Speaker & Deputy Speaker, Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha.
4. The Chairman/Managing Director of all Boards/Corporation/Undertaking, Himachal Pradesh.
5. The Vice Chancellor, Himachal Pradesh University, Summer Hill, Shimla-5/ Dr. Y.S. Parmar Horticulture and Forestry University, Nauni, Solan/Chaudhary Sarwan Kumar Agriculture University, Palampur.
6. All Hon'ble Members of Parliament/MLAs Himachal Pradesh.
7. All Chairmen, Zila Parishad, Himachal Pradesh.
8. The Mayor/Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Shimla.
9. The Director, Information and Public Relations, Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-2.
10. All Returning/ Assistant Returning Officers in Himachal Pradesh.
11. All recognized and unrecognized Political Parties, Himachal Pradesh.
12. All Heads of Departments/Offices of Central Government, Himachal Pradesh.

Enclosures: As above.


Chief Electoral Officer,
Himachal Pradesh.

P.T.O

Directorate of Hr. Education
Himachal Pradesh



Endst. No. EDN-HE(1)B(15)6/2009-Election. Dated Shimla - 171001 the **21/4/2014**
Copy for information and further necessary action is forwarded to:-

1. The Chief Electoral Officer Shimla-9 w.r.t. letter No.3-13/2014-ELN-926, dated 18th March, 2014 for information please.
2. The Principal Secretary (HE) to the Govt. of H.P. for information please.
3. The Addl. Director of Hr. Education (Adm.), H.P.
4. The Addl. /Joint Director of Hr. Education (C), C-I/ C-II), H.P.
5. The OSD (C) (Skt.) Director of Hr. Education, H.P.
6. The Joint Controller (F&A), Dte. of Hr. Education, H.P.
7. All the Principals of Govt. Degree/B.ed /SKT Colleges in the H.P.
8. All the Deputy Directors of Hr. Education in the Pradesh with the remarks that same letter be circulated to all institutions under your control.
9. The Group Commander, NCC Group Headquarter Shimla H.P.
10. The Chief Librarian, Centre State Library Solan H.P.
11. All the Branch officer/Supdts. in this Directorate H.P.
12. The PS to the Director of Higher Education, H.P.
13. The Technical Officer, Dte. of Hr. Education, H.P. (for the uploading on deptt. Website).
14. Guard File.

21/4/2014
Director of Hr. Education
Himachal Pradesh

INSTRUCTION SI. No. 70

Election Commission's letter No.437/6/2007-PLN-III Dated : 23rd November, 2007 addressed to The Cabinet Secretary Government of India, the Chief Secretaries and the Chief Electoral Officers of all States and Union Territories.

Subject: - Tours of Ministers - General Elections

- Reference :-** 1. Commission's Letter No. 437/6/96/PLN-III dated 17.01.1996
2. Commission's Letter No 437/6/99-PLN-III dated 15.07.1999
3. Commission's Letter No 437/6/4/2003-PLN-III dated 12.06.2003

I am directed to state that Ministers may be undertaking visits to the State(s) where election is being held or have been announced and the provisions of Model Code of Conduct are in force, in connection with electioneering. The Commission, in order to ensure a level playing field which is a precondition for free and fair elections, has issued instructions from time to time governing such tours of ministers and has prescribed certain guidelines to ensure that the official machinery is in no way engaged in any election related work by such touring dignitaries. These have been upheld by the Supreme Court of India in the case of Narendra Kumar Gaur vs. Election Commission of India in Writ Petition No. 339 of 1999 on 16.08.99.

2. The Commission's instructions contained in the letters mentioned at the reference above have been consolidated for the sake of convenience in the following paragraphs :-

- (1) If a Minister of the Union is traveling from his/her headquarters to a poll bound state/district on purely official business, which cannot be avoided in public interest, then a letter certifying to this effect should be sent from the Secretary of the department/ministry concerned of the Government of India, to the Chief Secretary of the state which the Minister intends to visit, with a copy to the Commission. On receipt of such information from the Secretary that the Union Minister is proposing a purely official visit and no political activity of any kind is envisaged during such tour, the Chief Secretary may provide the Union Minister with a Government vehicle and accommodation and extend other usual courtesies for his official trip. While doing so, the Chief Electoral Officer of the State, who is entrusted with the task of monitoring of electoral activity in the State, including the implementation of the Model Code of Conduct, shall be alerted in advance by the Chief Secretary. The

Commission will keep watch on such arrangements in consultation with its Chief Electoral Officer. It is hoped that the Union Ministers will avoid making official visits to their home States, Constituency state and particularly to the constituencies from where they are contesting elections while it is open for them to make private visits (See ECI instruction No. 437/6/99 - PLN III dated 15.07.99)

(2) The Commission also directs that -

(i) No minister of State Government shall undertake an official visit to any constituency for which elections have been announced by the Commission during the period commencing with announcement of the elections upto end of the election process.

(ii) Minister will not summon any election related officer of the constituency or the State in which any elections have been announced, to a place or office or guest house inside or outside the aforesaid constituency for any official discussions during the period of elections commencing with the announcement of the elections from such constituency and ending with the completion of election process.

(iii) The only exception to these instructions will be when a Minister, in his capacity as in charge of the department concerned, or a Chief Minister undertakes an official visit to a constituency, or summons any election related officers of the constituency to a place outside the constituency, in connection with failure of law and order or occurrence of a natural calamity or any such emergency which requires personal presence of such Ministers/Chief Ministers for the specific purpose of supervision review/salvage/relief and other similar purposes. (See ECI instruction No. 437/6/96/PLN III - dated 17.01.96)

(3) It is clarified that the Ministers are entitled to use their official vehicles in their headquarters from their place of residence to their office for official work provided that such commuting is not combined with any electioneering or any political activity which would include a visit to party office even if it were enroute. 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/her electioneering visits, even if the State administration has granted him a security cover requiring presence of armed personnel to accompany him on such visit. (See ECI instruction No. 437/6/96/PLN III - dated 17.01.96)

(4) During **bye elections** from any constituencies, either Parliamentary or Assemblies, the following restrictions will be applicable with regard to the tours of Ministers subject to exceptions mentioned above in para 2(iii) covering situations of grave emergency:-

- (i) All Ministers, whether Central or State, shall not combine in any manner their official tours with election work after the announcement of the bye elections. They shall return to their headquarters on completion of their official tours. All and any visits to the district(s) where bye-election is being held and where Model Code of Conduct is, therefore, in force, have to be completely private in nature and such private visits should begin and end at the Minister's headquarters.
- (ii) In case where a Minister traveling on official work transits through the district(s) where the bye-election is being held en route to any other district on official visit, he/she shall not halt in the district(s) where Model Code of Conduct is in force and shall not attend to any political work.
- (iii) No official of any rank of the district(s) where the bye-election is being held, shall be called to attend any meeting by any Minister in any district, that is to say, even in other districts where election is not being held.
- (iv) Any official who meets the Minister on his private visit to the constituency where elections are being held shall be guilty of misconduct under the relevant service rules; and if he happens to be an official mentioned in Section 129 (1) of the Representation of 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.
- (v) 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/her private visit to the constituency where a bye election is under way even if the State administration has granted him a security cover requiring presence of armed guards to accompany him on such visit. (See ECI instruction No. 437/6/4/2003 - PLN III dated 12.06.03)

(5) The Commission further directs that the Chief Electoral Officer of the State who is entrusted with the task of monitoring of electoral activities in the State including the implementation of Model Code of Conduct shall be kept informed in advance by the District

Election Officer of any visit proposed to be undertaken by any Minister of the State Govt. or any Central Minister to the district where bye-election is being held and the Chief Electoral Officer shall forthwith communicate the same to the Election Commission. (See ECI instruction No. 437/6/4/2003 - PLN III dated 12.06.03)

3. Any violation of these instructions will be viewed as gross infringement not only of the Model code of Conduct but also of the authority of the Commission to promulgate such directions as it considers necessary to ensure peaceful, fair and free poll reflective of the true choice of the people, and will be visited with such action as considered appropriate by the Commission on the merits of the specific circumstances.

INSTRUCTION SL. NO. 72

ECI letter No.437/6/INST/2011-CC&BE dated 24th March, 2011 addressed to the Cabinet Secretary, New Delhi, Chief Secretaries of all States and UTs and Chief Electoral Officers of all States and UTs

Subject:- Tours of Chief Ministers- reg

I am directed to state that according to Commission's existing instructions on the subject cited, the personal staff of the Chief Ministers or other Ministers shall not be allowed to accompany them during their private tours during the period of Model Code of Conduct.

2. The matter has been reconsidered by the Commission. It has been decided that during the Model Code period, one member of personal staff of the Chief Ministers of States/Union Territories may be allowed to accompany them on personal/private tour. However, such personal staff shall not take part in any political activity or assist the Chief Minister in his political work.

3. This may be brought to the notice of all concerned.

INSTRUCTION SL. NO. 73

ECI letter No.437/6/INST/2011-CC&BE Dated: 01st April, 2011 addressed to the Cabinet Secretary, New Delhi, Chief Secretaries of all States and UTs and Chief Electoral Officers of all States and UTs

Subject:- Tours of Chief Ministers- reg

In partial modification of the Commission's instructions contained in Para (2) of its letter of even number dated 24th March, 2011, regarding the tours of Chief Ministers, the Commission has decided that during the Model Code period, one member of personal staff of Chief Minister of the State/Union Territory, who has been allowed to accompany him on personal/private tour should be a **non-gazetted** officer. Further, as already instructed, such personal staff shall not take part in any political activity or assist the Chief Minister in his political work.

The Commission has also decided that these instructions will be applicable also in the case of the Prime Minister/Union Cabinet Ministers.