

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

NIRVACHAN SADAN, ASHOKA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

No. 100/MP-LA/2020-(Bye)

Dated: 30 October, 2020

NOTICE

Whereas, the Bye Elections to the Legislative Assembly of Madhya Pradesh were announced by the Commission on 29th September, 2020, vide Press Note No. ECI/PN/67/2020 and the provisions of Model Code of Conduct has been imposed from that date as per Para 4 of the said Press Note; and

2. Whereas, Sub Para (1) of Part 1 of the Model Code of Conduct provides that '*no party or candidate shall indulge in any activity which may aggravate the existing differences or create mutual hatred or cause tension between different castes and communities, religious or linguistic*'; and

3. Whereas, the Commission's instructions contained in letter No. 437/6/2017(Policy) dated 25.02.2017, inter-alia provides that,

"The political leaders need to ensure that nothing in their statements may be construed as mixing of religion and caste ,etc, with their election campaigns or having effect of causing mutual hatred, disharmony or ill-will or to aggravate the differences between political parties and classes of citizens on the grounds of religion, caste, creed, community and language.

The Commission once again calls upon all the political parties and political leaders to desist from making such statements which are against not only the words but also the spirit of law and the MCC, even at places where elections are not being held since it will have an undesirable impact on the mind of electors of the poll bound states/areas"; and

4. Whereas, a complaint from Shri Shahid Modi vide his email dated 23.10.2020 has been received against Ms. Usha Thakur, Minister of Tourism and Culture, Madhya Pradesh condemning the statement given by her and also alleged that her statement hurt the religious sentiments; and

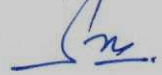
5. Whereas, a report in this regard has been sought from Chief Electoral Officer, Madhya Pradesh. As per the report dated 27.10.2020, it has been stated that in a press conference held on 20/10/2020 at Hotel Divya Palace, in Pardeshipura, Indore, Ms. Usha Thakur, Minister of Tourism and Culture, Madhya Pradesh Government has made the following statements. The authorized transcript (Annexure-I) of the said statement is as under:

“.....धर्म आधारित शिक्षा कट्टरता पनपा रही है। विदेश का भाव फैला रही हैं।.....कौन सी संस्कृति पढ़ा रहे बन्धू यदि आप इस देश के नागरिक हैं तो आप देखिए कि सारा कट्टरवाद सारे आतंकवादी मदरसे में पले हैं और बडे हैं। जम्मू कश्मीर को आतंकवादियों की फैक्ट्री बना के रख दिया था ।..... ठीक है न कि मदरसे बन्द । राष्ट्रवाद के बाधा जो भी डालेगा, ऐसी सारी चीजें राष्ट्रहित में बन्द होनी चाहिये।”

6. Whereas, the transcript of the speech made by Ms. Usha Thakur has been examined in the Commission and the statement given by her found to be in violation of the provisions contained in Sub Para (1) of Part I of ‘General Conduct’ of Model Code of Conduct for the Guidance of Political Parties and Candidates.

7. Now, therefore, the Commission gives Ms. Usha Thakur an opportunity to explain her stand in making the above said statement within 48 hours of receipt of this notice, failing which the Election Commission of India shall take a decision without further reference to her.

By Order,



(B.C. PATRA)
SECRETARY

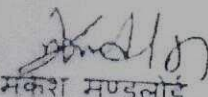
To,
Ms. Usha Thakur,
Minister of Tourism and Culture,
Madhya Pradesh Government

मंत्री सुश्री उषा ठाकुर का मदरसे वाला बयान

दिनांक 20 अक्टूबर को मालवा मिल चौराहे में स्थित दिव्य पैलेस होटल में आयोजित पत्रकारों से चर्चा में यह बयान दिया गया था।

लिप्यान्तरण

"भोजन सबके लिये मिलना चाहिये, पर ये जो संविधान की अलग परिभाषा करना। बच्चे, बच्चे होते हैं, विद्यार्थी, विद्यार्थी होते हैं। इसलिये मैं तो कि सबकी सामूहिक शिक्षा होनी चाहिये। धर्म आधारित शिक्षा कट्टरता पनपा रही है। विद्वेश का भाव फैला रही है। सब बच्चों को सामूहिक रूप से समान शिक्षा दी जानी चाहिये। कौन सी संस्कृति पढा रहे बन्धू, यदि आप इस देश के नागरिक हैं तो आप देखिए कि सारा कट्टरवाद, सारे आतंकवादी मदरसे में पले हैं और बड़े हैं। जम्मू कश्मीर को आतंकवादियों की फैक्ट्री बना के रख दिया था। तो ऐसे मदरसे जो राष्ट्रवाद से, जो समाज की मुख्य धारा से नहीं जोड़ सकते, उनको हमें समूचित शिक्षा के साथ जोड़कर समाज को सबकी प्रगति के लिये एक साथ आगे ले जाना चाहिए। देखिए ये अभी असम में करके भी दिखाया है। ठीक है न कि मदरसे बन्द। राष्ट्रवाद के वाधा जो भी डालेगा, ऐसी सारी चीजें राष्ट्रहित में बन्द होनी चाहिये।"


मुकेश मण्डलोई

सोशल मीडिया सेल प्रभारी
एमसीएमसी, इंदौर