

# ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

NIRVACHAN SADAN, ASHOKA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

No. 437/WB-LA/2021

Dated :18<sup>th</sup> April, 2021

## ORDER

Whereas, the Commission had issued a Notice No. 437/WB-LA/2021 dated 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2021 to Ms. Sujata Mondal, Leader of All India Trinamool Congress for violation of Model Code of Conduct during ongoing General Election to Legislative Assembly of West Bengal by demeaning the Scheduled Castes in West Bengal; and

2. Whereas, the Commission has received a reply from Ms. Sujata Mondal to the aforesaid Notice, on 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2021; and

3. Whereas, Ms. Sujata Mondal, in the aforesaid reply, has inter-alia submitted the following :-

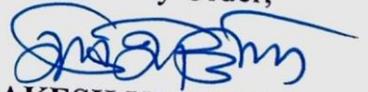
*She proudly belongs to the Scheduled Caste ("SC") and relate to the pre-existing struggles and sufferings of the SC and hold the community in the highest regard. While denying the allegations in the notice in their entirety, she responds to the same as hereunder:*

- a. *The alleged statement made by her in the notice under reference relates to 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2021, the day of poll in Arambag AC. It is pertinent to note that two life threatening attacks were made by the armed violent assembly of the goons of Bharatiya Janata Party ("BJP") on me. In the attack, she received grave injuries to her head, her personal security officer was grievously assaulted, her election agent received lethal injuries and her car was severely damaged. While all this was happening, the CRPF remained a mute spectator to the ensuing violence. A complaint in this regard was also filed before the Election Commission of India.*
- b. *The alleged statement was forcibly recorded by the press right after she was attacked a second time and a violent attack was launched against my car. The statements were made by her in the context of the attempt on her life by goons/stooges of the BJP and her anguish at BJP exploiting the vulnerabilities of the SC community in her Assembly Constituency, which compelled them to launch such vicious attack on her life and person. The comments were solely restricted to express her grief and anguish at life threatening attack on her at the behest of paid BJP goons.*
- c. *Following her statement, the same has been misconstrued by the BJP and being intentionally used to create a false narrative around the incident. This is evident from a tweet published by the Bengal wing of BJP on their official Twitter handle @BJP4Bengal, wherein they have intentionally incited/influenced/instigated specific segments of the society by misrepresenting and distorting her statements. The said tweet available at: <https://twitter.com/BJP4Bengal/status/1380694871808217095>.*

- d. *Her statements were in no way intended to promote enmity, hatred or ill-will, amongst classes. In fact, upon seeing the same being distorted, twisted and misrepresented, she has addressed a press conference, explaining the true intent and spirit of the statements. The video can be accessed at: <https://www.facebook.com/AITCOfficial/videos/5543502085689985/>*
- e. *In the circumstances, she is hopeful that the Commission will appreciate that the statements were made in good faith, without any malafides/ill-intention, or without intent to cause any conflict between classes. She denies that any case is made out against her for offences under Section 153(A) and/or 505 of the Indian Penal Code, - 1860 and alleged violations of the Model Code of Conduct and the Commission will kindly rescind the notice under reply.*

4. Whereas, the Commission has carefully considered her reply which does not justify the relevant portions of her **statement denigrating the Scheduled Caste community in West Bengal** and is of considered view that Ms. Sujata Mondal has **violated clause (1) of Part 1 'General Conduct of Model Code of Conduct for the Guidance of Political Parties and Candidates'** through her remarks which could cause tension between different castes thereby adversely affecting the election process.

5. Now, therefore, the Commission hereby sternly warns Ms. Sujata Mondal and advises her to desist from using such statement while making public utterances during the period when Model Code of Conduct is in force **and imposes a ban of 24 hours** from 7PM on 18.04.2021 to 7PM on 19.04.2021 during which she shall not be allowed to campaign.

By Order,  
  
(RAKESH KUMAR)  
SECRETARY

To,  
Ms. Sujata Mondal,  
Leader of All India Trinamool Congress,  
West Bengal.