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ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No.437/6/INST/2011-CC&BE

Dated: 28th December, 2011

To

- 1) The Cabinet Secretary
Cabinet Secretariat
Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi.
- 2) The Chief Secretaries of
All States and Union Territories
- 3) The Chief Electoral Officers of
All States and Union Territories

Subject: Celebration of Republic Day - attendance of political functionaries.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to state that on the announcement of the General Elections to the Legislative Assemblies of the States of Goa, Manipur, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, the provisions of Model Code of Conduct have come into force w.e.f. 24th December, 2011. As you are aware, the Republic Day is falling during the period of enforcement of Model Code of Conduct. Hence, the Commission has decided to reiterate its instructions issued vide its letter no. 437/6/98-PLN-III dated 10th January, 1998, as under :-

“References have been received from various States about the attendance of political functionaries in the celebration of Republic Day. The Commission has considered all the relevant factors in view of the ensuing General Elections to Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies and certain Bye-Elections. Commission has decided that there is no objection to Central Ministers/Chief Ministers/Ministers in the States to do the honours in the main Republic Day functions at various locations subject to the condition that in their speeches, they should confine themselves to extolling the achievements of the Martyrs in securing freedom of the country, glory of the Indian State and so on. Under no circumstances, they should become a platform for political campaign.

In view of the fact that Republic Day celebrations will come during the election process and that the Central Ministers, Chief Ministers and Ministers in the States belong to political parties and alliances and may even be the candidates, the Commission, purely in the interest of ensuring a level playing field, directs that no Central Minister/Chief Minister/Minister or any other political functionary in the States/Ex-MPs shall do the honours at any Republic Day functions at any location within their home district or constituency or the constituency from where he or she is a contesting candidate or intends to contest.

The Commission, however, has no objection to organisation of Kavi Sammelan, Mushairas or other cultural functions organised in connection with the Republic Day celebrations and being attended by the Central Ministers, Chief Ministers, Ministers in the States and other political functionaries. However, utmost care should be taken to ensure that no political speeches are made on the occasion.

The Commission has further decided that investiture ceremonies at the National and State level and distribution of Tamra Patras to freedom fighters, etc. will be done according to the existing conventions.

The above instructions may be brought to the notice of all concerned for strict compliance."

Yours faithfully

(K.N. BHAR)
SECRETARY