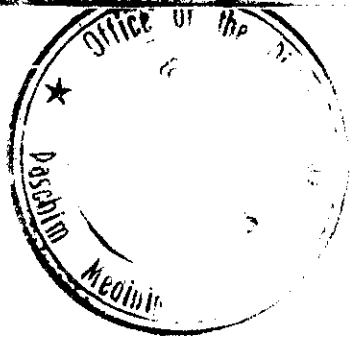


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R. No. 1759 D.M. (Regd.)
Dated 23.3.09

Office of the District Election Officer
& Collector
RECEIVED REGD
23 MAR 2009
Proclamation - Election

Government of West Bengal
Home (C & E) Department
21, N.S. Road, (3rd fl.), Kolkata-700001.

From : Shri N.K. Sahana, IAS
Joint Chief Electoral Officer, West Bengal.

To : The District Election Officer (ALL)

No.44(20)-Elec/WB/I-I/09

Date : 20.03.2009.

Sub : Use of School Grounds for campaign
Purposes during election Process - Reg.

CA
ADM (Elec)
o/c/elec
1) Pls. inform all
SDOs
2) P Parties
3) All ADMs

Sir,

ee

I am directed to enclose herewith a copy of the Commission's instruction bearing No.464/INST/2009/EPS, dated 18th March, 2009, on the above mentioned subject for your guidance and taking action accordingly.

Encl : As above.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]
20/3/09
Joint Chief Electoral Officer, West Bengal.

G.E.-2009

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nilayachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No.464/INST/2009/EPS

Dated:- 18th March, 2009

To,

The Chief Electoral Officers of
All States/UTs.(except Punjab and Haryana)

Subject: Use of School Grounds for campaign purposes during election Process – regarding.

Sir,

It has always been the endeavor of the Commission to ensure free and fair elections and towards that end it has issued instructions from time to time on various aspects of the election process to ensure that there is no damage to any person or property. The Commission attaches highest importance to the integrity and transparency of the electoral process. The main objective of the Commission is to ensure level playing field for all political parties and to see that the ruling party (ies) at the Centre and in the States do not use their official power and machinery to further their prospects in the elections. The election campaign, therefore, forms an effective tool for all political parties to reach out among the common masses and create voting awareness among them.

2. The Commission has been receiving representations from various States/UTs regarding scarcity of grounds for campaign purposes. The political parties have been urging the Commission from time to time to allow them to utilize school and college grounds for political meetings. The Commission has considered the issue and has decided to allow the use of school and college grounds for political meetings provided:

- a) Schools and Colleges academic calendar is not disturbed under any circumstances.
- b) The School/College Management has no objection for this purpose and prior permission for such campaigning is obtained from the School/College Management as well as Sub Divisional Officer.
- c) Such permission is granted on first-come-first served basis and no political party is allowed to monopolize the use of those grounds.
- d) Any violation in the allotment of School/College grounds for political meetings will be viewed seriously by the Commission. The accountability in this regard lies with the Sub Divisional Officer. and
- e) The Political Parties and Candidates and Campaigners shall take care to ensure that the above norms are not violated.

3. The Commission further directs that, if such grounds are utilized for campaigning purpose it should be returned to the authority concerned, without any damage or with the requisite compensation for the damage caused, if any. The political party/parties restoring back the campaign ground to the concerned school/college authority should be responsible for the payment of such compensation, if any.

4. The above instruction would apply to all States/UTs except Punjab and Haryana where there is express prohibition of the Punjab & Haryana High Court in the matter.

Yours faithfully,

SUMIT MUKHERJEE
(UNDER SECRETARY)

Copy to:- All registered political parties (List enclosed).

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