

राजस्थान सरकार  
निर्वाचन विभाग

एफ 3.(1)(9)प्रथम/निर्वा/2024/ 581

जयपुर, दिनांक: 24-1-24

प्रेषक : मुख्य निर्वाचन अधिकारी  
राजस्थान, जयपुर।

प्रेषिति : मुख्य सचिव  
राजस्थान सरकार  
जयपुर।

: महानिदेशक, पुलिस  
राजस्थान, जयपुर।

समस्त अतिरिक्त मुख्य  
सचिव/प्रमुख शासन सचिव/  
शासन सचिव

राजस्थान सरकार।  
प्रमुख शासन सचिव,  
मंत्रिमण्डल सचिवालय,  
राजस्थान जयपुर।

समस्त अध्यक्ष/प्रबन्ध  
निदेशक/निदेशक/सचिव  
बोर्ड/आयोग/निगम राजस्थान।

समस्त संभागीय आयुक्त,  
राजस्थान।

विषय:- आगामी लोकसभा आम चुनाव, 2024 -मंत्रियों/अन्य गणमान्य व्यक्तियों  
की यात्राएं/दौरे के संबंध में।

महोदय,

उपरोक्त विषयान्तर्गत निवेदन है कि राज्य में लोकसभा आम चुनाव, 2024 निकट भविष्य में सम्पन्न होने है। आगामी लोकसभा आम चुनाव के कार्यक्रम की घोषणा के साथ ही आदर्श आचार संहिता प्रभावी हो जायेगी, जो निर्वाचन प्रक्रिया की समाप्ति तक प्रभावी रहेगी। चुनाव कार्यक्रम की घोषणा की सूचना भारत निर्वाचन आयोग की राजकीय वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध रहेगी साथ ही आपको विभाग द्वारा सूचना दे दी जायेगी तथा मीडिया के माध्यम से भी इसकी सार्वजनिक जानकारी हो जायेगी।

आदर्श आचार संहिता के प्रभावी रहने के दौरान स्वतंत्र एवं निष्पक्ष चुनाव सम्पन्न कराने हेतु मंत्रीगण/अन्य गणमान्य व्यक्तियों की यात्राओं और दौरों को नियंत्रित करने के संबंध में भारत निर्वाचन आयोग के पत्रांक 437/6/INST/ECI/FUNCT/MCC/2024 (Tour of Ministers)/610 दिनांक 02.01.2024 एवं Manual on Model Code of Conduct, March 2019 के Chapter 7 में विस्तृत दिशा निर्देश प्रदान किये गये हैं, जिनकी प्रति संलग्न कर प्रेषित की जा रही है।

13

कृपया आदर्श आचार संहिता प्रभाव में रहने के दौरान आयोग के उक्त निर्देशों की पालना सुनिश्चित किये जाने हेतु राज्य के माननीय केबिनेट मंत्रीगण/राज्य मंत्रीगण/संसदीय सचिवों एवं अन्य गणमान्यों को आयोग के निर्देशों की पालना हेतु उक्त निर्देशों की प्रति उपलब्ध कराने का श्रम करावें।

संलग्न : उपरोक्तानुसार

भवदीय,

(प्रवीण गुप्ता)  
मुख्य निर्वाचन अधिकारी,  
राजस्थान, जयपुर।

एफ 3.(1)(9)प्रथम/निर्वा/2024/ 587

जयपुर, दिनांक: 24-1-24

प्रतिलिपि निम्न को सूचनार्थ एवं आवश्यक कार्यवाही हेतु प्रेषित हैं:-

1. समस्त जिला निर्वाचन अधिकारी (कलक्टर्स), राजस्थान।
2. संयुक्त मुख्य निर्वाचन अधिकारी (आई.टी.), निर्वाचन विभाग को पत्र की प्रति विभाग की वेबसाईट पर अपलोड कराने हेतु प्रेषित हैं।

उप मुख्य निर्वाचन अधिकारी  
राजस्थान, जयपुर।



भारत निर्वाचन आयोग सचिवालय  
SECRETARIAT OF THE ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

निर्वाचन सदन, अशोक रोड, नई दिल्ली-110001  
Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No. 437/6/INST/ECI/FUNCT/MCC/2024 (Tour of Ministers) /610

Dated: 2<sup>nd</sup> January, 2024

To,

- (i) The Chief Secretaries  
of all States and Union Territories.
- (ii) The Chief Electoral Officers  
of all States and Union Territories.
- (iii) President/Chairperson/General Secretaries  
of all recognized National and State Political Parties.

**Subject: -Model Code of Conduct – Instruction- Tour of Ministers during Election period – Regarding.**

Reference: Commission's instructions:

- (i) No. 437/6/96/PLN-III/, dated 17.01.1996  
(ii) No.437/6/2007-PLN-III, dated 23.11.2007  
(iii) No.437/6/INST/2010-CC&BE, dated 07.06.2010  
(iv) No.437/6/INST/2011-CC&BE, dated 24.03.2011  
(v) No.437/6/INST/2011-CC&BE, dated 01.04.2011  
(vi) No.437/6/INST/2010-CC&BE/Vol.II, dated 05.04.2011  
(vii) No.437/INST/2009/CC&BE, dated 25.03.2009  
(viii) No.437/6/INST/2011-CC&BE, dated 27.04.2011  
(ix) No.437/6/CG/2014-CC&BE, dated 07.10.2014  
(x) No. 437/6/MISC/2015-CC, dated 19.06.2015  
(xi) No. 437/6/GUJ/98-PLN-III, dated 16.01.1998  
(xii) No. 437/6/INST/2008-CC&BE, dated 21.04.2009  
(xiii) No. 437/6/CG/LA-Multi/ECI/LET/FUNCT/MCC/2018, dated 22.11.2018  
(xiv) No. 437/6/ECI/INST/FUNCT/MCC/2021, dated 14.03.2021  
(xv) No. 437/6/INST/2009-CC&BE dated 25.10.2009  
(xvi) No.437/INST/2009/CC&BE, dated 25.03.2009, and  
(xvii) No. 437/6/2007/PLN.III, dated: 24.10.2007

Madam/Sir,

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. The Commission's instructions in this regard in suppression of all the instructions issued vide letters listed above have been consolidated below for the sake of convenience: -

**I. Tours of Ministers**

- (1) No minister of Central or 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 up to end of the election process.
- (2) 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.
- (3) 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.
- (4) 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.

- (5) 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.
- (6) During **bye elections** from any constituencies, either Parliamentary or Assemblies, the following restrictions will be applicable with regard to the tours of Ministers:-
  - (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 EC instruction No. 437/6/4/2003 – PLN III dated 12.06.03)

(7) 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 communicate the same to the Election Commission.

(8) During the Model Code period, one member of personal staff (**non-gazetted officer**) 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. These instructions will be applicable also in the case of the Union Cabinet Ministers except Prime Minister.

(9) During such visit, all Ministers both Union and State and all other leaders of political parties will be allowed security as per the threat perceptions assessed by official agencies and other professional agencies. The expenditure on the bullet proof cars and all other cars used by these individuals will be borne by the individuals concerned/political party concerned. However, expenditure on the security staff will be borne by the State Government/UT Administration concerned

## II. **Tours of Prime Minister for Election Campaign**

(1) The restriction regarding personal staff members who can accompany on personal/private tours shall not apply to the Prime Minister.

(2) The Prime Minister has been exempted from the operation of the model code of conduct provision pertaining to the combining of official visit with electioneering visit.

(3) In regard to the construction of helipad during election tours of the Prime Minister, the State Administrations can be requested to undertake construction of helipads. However, the expenses

incurred on the construction of such helipads will be borne by the political party concerned in accordance with the Commission's instructions related to charging of expenditure for star campaigners.

- (4) In view of the concerns raised by the security agencies, official staff of Doordarshan may be deployed for operation and transportation of teleprompter equipments to assist the Prime Minister in delivery of election speeches. However, it should be ensured that the said services by Doordarshan shall be made available on the terms and conditions stipulated by the Ministry of Information & broadcasting for providing such services.

**III. Tours of Chairmen and Members of Commissions like the National Commission for Scheduled Castes, National Commission for Minorities, National Commission for Backward Classes, National Commission for Economically Backward Classes, etc.**

- (1) The Election Commission is aware of the fact that the various Commissions like, the National Commission for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, National Economically Backward Classes Commission, National Commission for Minorities etc. are entrusted with certain responsibilities connected with the welfare of the respective communities. In this context, the Commission would like to stress that during enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct, unless it becomes unavoidable in an emergent situation, the official visits of the Members of the said Commissions to the States going to polls may be deferred.

- (2) In case of any emergency which calls for an immediate field visit and review by the Members of the Commissions mentioned above which cannot be avoided or deferred in public interest:

- (a) A programme for their visit can be made under intimation to the Chief Electoral Officer of the State concerned.
- (b) The Secretary of the said Commissions must take enough precaution that the visit is kept totally official and no political activity is undertaken by the Chairmen/Members during their visit. In such a situation, the Secretary of the Commissions should furnish a certificate to the Commission to the above effect before the visit is undertaken.
- (c) A copy of the said certificate shall also be endorsed to the Chief Secretary as well as the Chief Electoral Officer of the State/UT where the visit is being undertaken.
- (d) During such visits, the Chairmen/Members should not meet any Ministers/Politicians and they should also not hold public hearings or meet the public. Their meetings etc. should be only with the Government officials.

- (3) The above instructions would be applicable *mutatis mutandis* to similar Commissions established by the State Governments.

#### **IV. Adherence to prescribed security protocols during the MCC period**

- (1) At some occasions, the Star Campaigners do not adhere to the security protocols laid down by the security agencies and exposing themselves to security risk during the campaign. Attention has also been drawn that the safety provisions as prescribed in the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988 (as amended) (e.g. applying seat belt etc.) are also not being followed in some cases thereby violating the existing statutory provisions punishable under law.
- (2) Commission has, time and again, emphasized on the safety and security of all candidates during campaign specifically the use of bullet proof car by the persons provided with Z+ security cover as prescribed by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. Star campaigners, who have been provided with security cover by the security agencies, must adhere to the security protocols laid down to avoid any security breach which may expose them to risk. Also, all Candidates including Star Campaigners must follow the safety instructions during the use of any vehicle including helicopter etc. as prescribed under the relevant laws to avoid any mishap or accident, which may endanger the life and property of individual(s) and/or public at large.

#### **V. Use of vehicles for election campaign—Bullet-proof vehicles provided for security reasons — instructions**

- (1) In the case of persons provided with Z-plus security cover and allotted bullet-proof vehicle in view of security considerations, would be permitted to use such state-owned bullet-proof vehicle during the period of operation of Model Code of Conduct. The cost of propulsion of such bullet-proof vehicles will be borne by the person concerned when it is used for non-official purposes during such period. If the person is a leader of political party in terms of the Explanations 1 and 2 under Section-77(1) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the expenditure on propulsion of the vehicle may be borne by the political party concerned for any journey referred to in the said Section-77(1). In no case, the expenditure will be borne by the government in such cases.
- (2) There would be no objection, if any other person, including any political functionary or candidate, travels along with a Z+ category political functionary, who has been provided with bullet proof vehicle and for which payment is being made by him or his party.



- (3) If the political functionary provided with bullet proof car is a 'Star Campaigner' in terms of Explanation (2) to Section 77(1) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the expenditure on the use of bullet proof car would not be deemed to be expenditure incurred or authorized by any candidate.
- (4) If such political functionary is, however, not a Star campaigner, the expenditure on use of bullet proof car would be included in the account(s) of the candidate(s) in relation to whose election campaign such car is used.
- (5) The SPG Protectees (**other than Prime Minister**) are also covered under these instructions, further subjected to the following conditions:-
- (a) If the use of spare multiple vehicles has been prescribed in the case of the SPG Protectee by the security authorities due to security reasons, the same may be allowed at Govt. cost (except the vehicle used by the SPG Protectee).
- (b) There may be no objection to the personal staff of the SPG Protectee accompanying the said Protectee in the B.P. car as the cost of propulsion of such bullet proof vehicle is to be paid by the Protectee or his political party where such SPG Protectee is a person covered by Section 77(1) of the Representation of the People Act 1951 (i.e. leader of the political party concerned who is called a star campaigner for the party). If any other political dignitary is allowed to accompany the SPG protectee, if the situation so warrants, then 50% of the cost of propulsion shall be booked in the election expenditure of the Party candidate from the particular Constituency concerned. However, it is further clarified that if such companion is also a star campaigner under the said Section 77(1), no such apportionment of expenditure shall be called for.

The above instructions of the Commission shall be brought to notice of all concerned for strict compliance.

Yours faithfully,

  
(NARENDRA N. BUTOLIA)  
SR. PRINCIPAL SECRETARY

## CHAPTER 7

# TOURS/VISITS OF MINISTERS/OTHER DIGNITARIES

### **Main topics discussed in the Chapter:-**

- Consolidated Instructions
  - ✓ Official visit not to be combined with political/private visit
  - ✓ Restriction on use of official vehicles
  - ✓ No protocol by Government officials
  - ✓ Meeting with govt. officials
  - ✓ Video Conferencing with Government officials
  - ✓ Personal staff with Ministers, while on tour
  - ✓ Accommodation in Government guest houses
- Briefing of Chief Minister/ Home Minister by Police Officers

### 7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 During elections, ministers may be undertaking tours to the state where Model Code is in force. In order to ensure level playing field, the Election Commission placed certain curbs on the tours of ministers. The Election Commission issued certain directives on 31 December 1993 to the effect that the ministers, chairman and directors of government bodies visiting a district or constituency after the announcement of election therefrom should not be provided with official transport or declared as state guests and that they should not convene any meetings of officers at district level, nor should they use any government vehicles or take with them their personal staff on such tours. The only exception to those directives was the Prime Minister of India, who stands on a different footing in view of the government's instructions on security arrangements for him.

7.1.2 On the eve of general elections to the House of the People and certain legislative assemblies in 1996, the Election Commission, by its order made on 17 January 1996, almost banned all official tours of ministers of the Union and State Governments from the time of announcement of elections to their completion. The Election Commission also put restriction on the officials involved in elections being made to attend on the visiting ministers in the name of security and administrative arrangements. The Ministers were allowed to use official vehicles in their

headquarters from their residences to their offices and that was only for official work. Though resented, these instructions were rarely defied openly.

- 7.1.3 During 1999 general elections, on the Central Government's request for relaxation, the Election Commission revised its earlier instructions.

## 7.2 Consolidated Instructions

7.2.1 The Election Commission's instructions (**Annexure XI**) on various aspects of tours undertaken by Ministers during elections issued from time to time have been consolidated for the sake of convenience in the following paragraphs :-

- (i) No minister of State Government shall undertake an official visit to any constituency for which elections have been announced by the Election Commission, during the period commencing with announcement of the elections upto end of the election process.
- (ii) If a Minister of the Union is travelling 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 Election 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 Model Code, shall be alerted in advance by the Chief Secretary. The Election Commission will keep watch on such arrangements in consultation with the Chief Electoral Officer. The Union Ministers are expected to avoid making official visits to their home States, and particularly to the constituencies from where

they are contesting elections though it is open for them to make private visits.

- (iii) **Official visit not to be combined with political/private visit:-** The Minister shall not combine his official visit with electioneering work and shall not make use of official machinery or personnel during the campaigning. In this connection, a reference was received in 2004 from Union Government seeking clarification whether the Minister for Railways while in Patna for political campaign can come officially from Patna to New Delhi for attending the meetings relating to railway budget or cabinet meetings. The ministry also sought a clarification on the issue whether the Railway Minister while on a personal/political visit to Patna can proceed to Kolkata on official visit. It was clarified that the Minister cannot combine his political or personal visit with official visit to Kolkata or elsewhere even if he pays the money for entire trip. It was also informed that the Minister could avail of normal privileges of free railway / air pass as available to Members of Parliament, but he was not entitled to take benefit of privileges as Union Minister for Railways for train/air journeys for going to Patna and returning to headquarters at Delhi. Before that, during general elections to State Assembly of Madhya Pradesh, the then Chief Minister of Punjab used state aircraft for a visit from Chandigarh to Indore for an official purpose. From there, he proceeded to Bhopal on election visit. He was made to pay for the entire journey from Chandigarh to Bhopal and back. Similarly, in 2003 general election to Legislative Assembly of Chhattisgarh, the then Chief Minister of the state had to reimburse to the state government the expenses for air journey which he performed by using state government aircraft from Raipur to Delhi for party work. However, during 2015 election, an exception was made in case of the Prime Minister, when he was permitted to combine his official tours with his private election campaign visits, with the directions that the expenditure on travel of the Prime Minister on non-official visits was to be borne by the political party concerned.
- (iv) **Restriction on use of official vehicles:-** 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. An instance was brought to notice of the Election Commission that Union Minister for Railways and Union Minister for Company Affairs used staff car to visit the Election Commission's office with election work. Both the ministers were issued notice. Consequently, the ministers paid the government for use of such car for their private visit. Similarly, a reference was received in 2012 from the Chief Electoral Officer, Punjab that the then Chief Minister of Punjab was campaigning in Rama Mandi from where he would like to travel to Ferozpur for hoisting the National Flag on 26 January. The Principal Secretary to Chief Minister requested that the expenditure on the vehicle to be used by Chief Minister from Rama Mandi to Ferozpur and back would be borne by the State Government. The Election Commission decided that the dignitaries who would be hoisting National Flag at Republic Day functions may travel directly to that place from the place of election campaign, if any. The travel expenditure for this purpose would be borne by the State Government concerned. They do not need to travel between these places via headquarters.

- (v) **No protocol by Government officials:-** Officers of state governments and district administrations shall not receive, see off or call upon, by way of protocol, on the ministers at the Centre or of the states when they visit any state or district on election tour. However, an exception has been made in the case of election tours of the Prime Minister and police officers of all ranks, including director general of police, and district collectors have been permitted to remain present for attending to security related arrangements.
- (vi) **Meeting with Government officials:-** 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 said 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. 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.

- (vii) **Video Conferencing with Government officials:-** Video conferencing by the Chief Ministers of states with their district officials is prohibited during the period when Model Code is in operation. 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 the People Act, 1951*, he shall be additionally considered to have violated the statutory provisions of that Section and liable to penal action provided there-under.
- (viii) **Personal staff with Prime Minister/Ministers, while on private tours/campaigning:-** Earlier, the Chief Ministers or other Ministers were not allowed to accompany personal staff with them during their private tours during the period of Model Code. On reconsideration, the Election Commission decided that during Model Code period, one non-gazetted member of personal staff of the Chief Ministers of States/Union Territories and Union Ministers 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. The restriction regarding personal staff members who can accompany on personal/private tours shall not apply to the Prime Minister. Similarly, during 2018 general election to the legislative assemblies of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan and Telangana on request from the Principal Secretary

to Prime Minister, the Commission on grounds of security concerns permitted deployment of official staff of Doordarshan for operation and transportation of teleprompter equipment to assist the Prime Minister in delivery of election speeches, during that and subsequent election campaigns subject to the condition that the said services by the Doordarshan should be made available on the terms and conditions stipulated by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting for providing such services.

- (ix) **Accommodation in Government guest houses:-** The Ministers shall not be accommodated in guest houses or rest houses of the government or of public sector undertakings, while on election tours, as these guest houses may be required for accommodating the Election Commission's observers and other election related officers. Same restrictions will apply in case of Members of Parliament and State Legislatures or other political functionaries. However, ministers and other political functionaries who have been provided security cover of 'Z' or 'Z plus' category by government or of equivalent level under any law shall be exempted from above restrictions and they can be accommodated in the government guest houses, if their security considerations so warrant. The ministers on official tours which are unavoidable may also be provided accommodation in the government houses, subject to the condition that they will return to their headquarters immediately after completion of their work and will not indulge in any activity which may violate the Model Code provisions.

### 7.3 Briefing of Chief Minister/Home Minister by Police Officers

The Election Commission has issued instructions to the effect that security briefings of Chief Minister or the Home Ministers when considered essential should be undertaken by Home Secretary or Chief Secretary, who in turn should be briefed by the police agencies. The instructions further state that in case where police agency's/official's presence is considered essential, Chief Secretary/Home Secretary may require the police agency/official to be present in such briefings.

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