

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTION COMMISSION
18, Sarojini Naidu Sarani
(Rawdon Street)
Kolkata – 700 017

No. 3962(23)-SEC/1M-20/2013

Date : 26.10.2013

From : The Secretary,
West Bengal State Election Commission

- To : 1) Smt. Soma Shaw, WBCS(Ex.), Municipal Returning Officer for KMC,
Ward No.1 & Assistant Election Officer, District Election Office,
63, N.S. Road, Kolkata-700001.
- 2) Sri Tanay Deb Sarkar, WBCS(Ex.), Municipal Returning Officer for KMC,
Ward No.24 & Deputy Director, Panchayats & RD,
63, N.S. Road, Kolkata-700001.
- 3) Municipal Returning Officer &
Sub-Divisional Officer, Dinhata / Cooch Behar(Sadar)/ Mal /
Jalpaiguri (Sadar) / Siliguri / Barrackpore / Bidhannagar /
Barasat / Alipore (Sadar)/ Chandernagar / Raghunathpur /
Purulia(Sadar) / Egra/ Asansol / Lalbagh / Bankura (Sadar) /
Howrah(Sadar) / Midnapur(Sadar) / Jhargram /
Berhampur(Sadar) / Krishnanagar(Sadar).

**Sub.: Municipal General and Bye-Elections-setting up of
candidates' Camps near polling Stations – Restrictions
regarding:**

Sir,

I am directed to state that this Commission has already brought out a “Model Code of Conduct” for the guidance of political parties and candidates in connection with Municipal General Elections to 5(five) Urban Local Bodies and Bye-Elections 29(twenty nine) Municipal Constituencies (Wards) scheduled to be held on 22nd November, 2013. There are certain restrictions on the setting up of election camps near the polling booths by the candidates or political parties with a view to removing tension among the workers of political parties and candidates and creating peaceful atmosphere on the day of poll.

2. After careful consideration of the matter the Commission hereby allows the candidates and political parties, if they so desire, to use one table and two chairs or a small dhuri / mattress beyond the limit of 100 metres from the polling station for the purpose of distribution of identity slip or to give any information to the voter regarding his polling station. However, no crowd should be allowed to gather around the table and chairs or dhurri/mattress as it may create law and order problem

3. Each candidate wishing to set up such booths shall intimate, in writing, in advance, to the Municipal Returning Officer, the names and serial nos. of the polling stations where such booths are proposed to be set up by him. He shall also obtain the written permissions of the concerned Govt. authorities or local authorities, i.e. Municipalities etc. on the basis of the provision as laid down in Section 416 of the West Bengal Municipal Act, 1993, before

setting up of such booths. Such a written permission must be available with the person manning the booth for production before the Police / Election authorities concerned on demand.

4. Such booths shall be used only for the sole purpose of issuing unofficial Identity Slips to electors. These Un-Official Identity slips shall be printed strictly on accordance with the instruction of the Commission on the subject without the name or symbol of the candidate or the name of the political party.

5. Only one banner to display the name of the candidate, his party and the election symbol allotted to him shall be allowed at each such booth, provided that such banner shall not be more than 4^{1/2} feet by 3 feet in length and breadth. Any banner set up in violation of this restriction will be removed by authorities maintaining the law and order.

6. The persons manning the booth shall not cause any obstructions whatsoever in the way of electors proceeding to the polling stations or prevent them from going to the booths of other candidates or create any other sort of hurdles whatsoever in the right of voters to exercise their legal franchise according to their own free will.

7. The Commission hereby warns all concerned that any violation of the above directions will be viewed by the Commission with the utmost gravity and most stringent action possible under the law, including but not restricted to removal of such booths forthwith will be taken against the candidates and / or their agents / workers responsible for any such violations.

8. In case of congested areas where the observance of such restriction would create practical difficulties and deprive the candidates of their usual arrangements for setting up such camps, proposal seeking relaxation may be sent to the Commission for consideration.

9. Where there is more than one polling station in a single premise, one additional chair may be allowed for every such additional polling station.

10. District Authorities and Municipal Returning Officers are advised not to permit setting up of candidates' camps anywhere in the municipal area in contravention of the permissible limit/distance as mentioned above.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/

(Tapas Ray)
Secretary,

West Bengal State Election Commission

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to:-

1. The District Municipal Election Officer for Kolkata Municipal Corporation & District Magistrate, South 24-Parganas.
2. The District Municipal Election Officer & District Magistrate, Cooch Behar / Jalpaiguri / Darjeeling / North 24-Parganas / South 24-Parganas / Howrah / Hooghly / Purba Medinipur / Paschim Medinipur/ Burdwan/ Purulia / Bankura / Murshidabad / Nadia.
3. Shri, Observer,
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4. The Commissioner of Police, Police Commissionerate, Howrah / Siliguri / Bidhannagar / Kolkata .
5. The Superintendent of Police, Cooch Behar / Jalpaiguri / Darjeeling / North 24-Parganas / South 24-Parganas / Hooghly / Purba Medinipur / Paschim Medinipur/ Jhargram / Burdwan/ Purulia / Bankura / Murshidabad / Nadia.

Sd/
O.S.D. & E.O. Joint Secretary,
West Bengal State Election Commission

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to the President / Chairman / General Secretary / Secretary.

Sd/
O.S.D. & E.O. Joint Secretary,
West Bengal State Election Commission