GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(RAILWAY BOARD)

No. 2020/RS(G)/11/2
dated: 29.01.2020

The PCMMs,
Zonal Railways/PU's
CORE/Allahabad, COFMOW/New Delhi
NF(C)/Guwahati, ED/Stores/RDSO/Lucknow
WPO/Patna & RWP/Bela

Sub: Immediate action to be taken for enforcement of Model Code of Conduct and Application of Model Code of Conduct after announcement of

(i) General Election to the Legislative Assembly of NCT of Delhi, 2020 and
(ii) By-election to the Maharashtra Legislative Council from Yavatmal Local Authorities' Constituency.

A copy of each of two O.Ms. No. 1/41/5/2019-Cab dated 09.01.2020 along with its enclosures from Cabinet Secretariat addressed to all Secretaries to the Government of India on the above subject are attached herewith regarding enforcement of Model Code of Conduct.

2. The same are circulated herewith for guidance and necessary action.

DA: As above

(Preveen Kumar)
Joint Director Railway Stores (G)
Railway Board
Subject: Immediate action to be taken for enforcement of Model Code of Conduct and Application of Model Code of Conduct after announcement of General Election to the Legislative Assembly of NCT of Delhi, 2020 - reg.

The undersigned is directed to forward herewith a copy each of Election Commission of India letter No.437/6/1/ECI/INST/FUNCT/MCC/2020/125 dated 06.01.2020 and letter No. 437/6/1/ECI/INST/FUNCT/MCC/2020/128 dated 06.01.2020 on the above subject for further necessary action.

Encl: A/a

(Ashutosh Jindal)
Joint Secretary
Tel: 23012697

All Secretaries to the Government of India
To

The Cabinet Secretary,
Government of India,
Rashtrapati Bhawan,
New Delhi.

2. The Chief Secretary
to the Government of
NCT of Delhi,
Delhi, and

3. The Chief Electoral Officer,
NCT of Delhi,
Delhi.

Subject: Immediate action to be taken for enforcement of Model Code of Conduct after announcement of General Election to the Legislative Assembly of NCT of Delhi, 2020- regarding.

Sir,

I am directed to state that the Election Commission has announced the schedule for holding General Election to Legislative Assembly of NCT of Delhi, operation of 'MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT' comes into effect with the announcement of elections by the Commission. In view of the general election to the Legislative Assembly of NCT of Delhi, the Commission has given following directions for effective enforcement of provisions of MCC:

1. **Defacement of Property** - ECI instructions contained in letters, No. 437/6/INST/2015-CCS, dated 29th December, 2015, No. 437/6/INST/2012- CC&BE dated 18th January, 2012 and No. 3/7/2008 JS-II dated 7th October, 2008, provide for prevention of defacement of property. The Commission has directed to ensure strict compliance of its instructions and to take time bound action as prescribed below:

   (a) **Defacement of Government property** - For this purpose a Government premise would include any Government office and the campus wherein the office building is situated. All wall writing, posters/papers or defacement in any other form, cutout/hoardings, banners, flags etc, on Government property shall be removed **within 24 hours** from the announcement of elections.
(b) Defacement of public property and misuse of public space- All unauthorized political advertisement, in the form of wall writing/posters/papers of defacement in any other form, cutout/hoardings, banners/flags etc. at public property and in public space like railway station, Bus stands, Airports, railway Bridges, Roadways, Govt. Buses, Electric/Telephone poles, municipal/local bodies' buildings etc., shall be removed **within 48 hours** from the announcement of elections by the Commission.

(c) Defacement of private property- All unauthorized political advertisement displayed at private property and subject to local law and court's directions, if any, shall be removed **within 72 hours** from the announcement of elections by the Commission.

2. **Misuse of official vehicle-** The ECI's Consolidated instructions contained in letter No. 464/INST/2014/EPS, dated 10th April 2014, among other things, provides that there shall be a total ban on use of official vehicle by any political party, candidate or any other person connected with election (except officials performing any election related official duty) for campaigning, electioneering or election related travel during elections (subject to certain exception mentioned therein). The expression official vehicle means and shall include, any vehicle used or capable of being used for the purpose of transport, whether propelled by mechanical power or otherwise and will include trucks, lorries, tempo, jeeps, cars, auto rickshaws, e-rickshaws, buses, belonging to Central Government, State Government/UT Administrations, public undertakings of Central/State Government, Join sector undertakings of Central/State Government, local bodies, municipal corporations, marketing boards, cooperative societies or any other body in which public funds, however small a portion of the total, are invested. The CEOs/DEOs shall take necessary action for compliance of ECI instructions **within 24 hrs** of the announcement of the elections.

3. **Advertisement at the cost of public exchequer-** ECI instructions contained in letters, No. 437/6/1/2014-CC&BE, dated 5th March, 2014 provides that at the cost of public exchequer in the newspapers and other media and the misuse of official mass media during the election period for partisan coverage of political news and publicity regarding achievements with a view to furthering the prospects of the party in power shall be scrupulously avoided. No advertisements shall be issued in electronic and print media highlighting the achievements of the Govt. at the cost of public exchequer. If any advertisement has already been released for telecast/broadcast or publication in the print media, it must be ensured that the telecast/broadcast of such ads on electronic media is stopped forthwith and that no such ad is published in any newspapers, magazines, etc., i.e. in print media, from the date of announcement and it should be immediately withdrawn. The CEOs/DEOs has to take **immediate action** to remove/stop any advertisement, in the print/electronic media,
showing the achievements of the Government soon after the announcement of elections.

4. **Photograph of political functionary at official website** - ECI instruction contained in letter No. 437/6/INST/2014-CC&B dated 20th March, 2014 provides that all references of Ministers, Politicians or political parties available on central/state Government’s official website, shall be removed. The CEOs have to take immediate action to remove/hide the photographs of any political functionary from official websites of state department.

5. **Development/construction related activities** - within 24 hours. of announcement of elections, the CEO/DEO shall obtain the following list of works for reference in case of validating any complaint on violation of MCC:
   - (i) List of work which has already been started on ground.
   - (ii) List of fresh work which has not started on ground.

6. **Activities for Expenditure Monitoring and enforcement of MCC** - Flying squad, FST, video team, intensive checking for liquor/Cash/Contra banned drugs, flying squads of excise department to check illicit trafficking of Drug/Narcotics to be immediately activated, after announcement.

7. **Complaint Monitoring System** - The poll going states shall have a complaint redressal mechanism based on website and call center. The toll free number of call center is 1950. Complaints can be registered by making calls to the toll free call center numbers or on the web site. Complainants will also be informed of the action taken by SMS and by the call center. Complainants can also see the details of the action taken on their complaints. This system should be operational within 24 hours, of the announcement. All complaint should be dealt with promptly and properly. The 24x7 control Room at the district level must be activated and sufficient deployment of manpower and other logistics be ensured in particular, round the clock personnel should be deployed in the control room and their duty roster must be issued to avoid any evasion or confusion.

8. **IT Application** - All IT applications including official website and social media shall be operational with the announcement.

9. **Dissemination of information for Awareness of Voters and political parties.** Publicity of major election activity would be given through CEC/DEO/RO. For this purpose, all necessary information shall be disseminated through radio, tv, cinema. Government channel to display voter education material.

10. **Active cooperation from Educational Institution and Civil Societies** - Cooperation can be sought from educational institution and civil societies for giving wide publicity to the election related information to the general public and other stakeholders.
11. **Media Centre**: Effort should be made for awareness among the voters, political parties and other stakeholder through media center about election system including use of BVM/VVPAT.

12. **MCMC/DEM C**: ECI Instruction contained in letter no. 491/MCMC/2014/Communication dated 24th March, 2014 provides that all registered political parties will approach the Media Certification and Monitoring Committees (MCMC) at District and State level, as the case may be, for pre-certification of their political advertisements proposed to be issued on electronic media. The Commission has directed to ensure strict compliance of its instructions contained in above said letter.

13. **Control Room**: The 24x7 control room at district level must be activated immediately and sufficient deployment of manpower and other logistics be ensured by the DEO/CEO. A control room with complaint Monitoring Centre would also be set up at ECI Secretariat during the entire election process.

Yours faithfully

(NARENDRA N. BUTOLIA)
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY
ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA  
NIRVAGHAN SADAN, ASHOKA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

No. 437/6/1/ECI/INST/FUNCT/MCC/2020  

Dated: 6th January, 2020

To

1. The Cabinet Secretary,  
   Government of India,  
   Rashtrapadi Bhawan,  
   New Delhi.

2. The Chief Secretary  
   to the Government of  
   NCT of Delhi,  
   Delhi, and

3. The Chief Electoral Officer,  
   NCT of Delhi,  
   Delhi.

Sub: Application of Model Code of Conduct – General Election to the Legislative  
Assembly of NCT of Delhi, 2020 – reg.

Sir,

I am directed to state that the Election Commission has announced the schedule for  
holding General Election to the Legislative Assembly of NCT of Delhi (Press Note No.  
hp://eci.gov.in/).

2. With this announcement, the provisions of the Model Code of Conduct for the  
guidance of the Political Parties and Candidates have come into force with immediate effect  
and which will be in force till the completion of the General Election to the Legislative  
Assembly of NCT of Delhi. This may be brought to the notice of the Central and State  
Government, all Ministries/Departments/offices of the Union Government/the State  
Government. A copy of instructions issued by you to this effect may be sent to the  
Commission for its information and record.

3. Your attention is drawn to the particular provisions of Model Code of Conduct  
relating to the ‘party in power’ which inter alia says that the party in power whether at the
Centre or in the States concerned, shall ensure that no cause is given for any complaint that it has used its official position for the purposes of its election campaign and in particular:

(i) The Ministers shall not combine their official visit with electioneering work and also shall not make use of official machinery or personnel during the electioneering work;

(b) Government transport including official air-crafts, vehicles, machinery and personnel shall not be used for furtherance of the interest of the party in power;

(ii) Public places such as maidans etc., for holding election meetings, and use of helipads for air-flights in connection with elections shall not be monopolised by itself. Other parties and candidates shall be allowed the use of such places and facilities on the same terms and conditions on which they are used by the party in power;

(iii) Rest houses, dak bungalows or other Government accommodation where elections have been announced or are taking place can be given to the political functionaries who are provided security by the State in Z scale or above or equivalent by various State Governments or the Central Government under provisions of their laws, on equitable basis. This shall be subject to condition that such accommodation is not already allotted or occupied by election related officials or Observers. Such political functionaries shall not carry out any political activity while staying in the Government Guest Houses/Rest Houses or other Government accommodation etc.;

(iv) Issue of advertisement at the cost of public exchequer in the newspapers and other media and the misuse of official mass media during the election period for partisan coverage of political news and publicity regarding achievements with a view to furthering the prospects of the party in power shall be scrupulously avoided;

(v) Ministers and other authorities shall not sanction grants/payments out of discretionary funds from the time elections are announced by the Commission; and

(vi) From the time elections are announced by the Commission, Ministers and other authorities shall not:

(a) announce any financial grants in any form or promises thereof; or
(b) (except civil servants) lay foundation stones etc. of projects or schemes of any kind; or
(c) make any promise of construction of roads, provision of drinking water facilities etc.; or
(d) make any ad-hoc appointments in Government, Public Undertakings etc. which may have the effect of influencing the voters in favour of the party in power.
4. As will be observed from Para 3(Clauses IV) above, no advertisements shall be issued in electronic and print media highlighting the achievements of the Govt. at the cost of public exchequer. If any advertisement has already been released for telecast/broadcast or publication in the print media, it must be ensured that the telecast/broadcast of such ads on electronic media is stopped forthwith and that no such ad is published in any newspapers, magazines, etc., i.e. in print media, from today itself and it should be immediately withdrawn.

5. The Instruction of the Commission contained in its letter No.437/6/2009-CCEE dated 5th March, 2009 is available on the Commission's web-site "https://eci.gov.in" - under the heading 'Important Instructions' for your information and necessary action. The Commission's all other instructions are also available in this link for your guidance.

6. The Commission further directs that there shall be a total ban on the transfer of all officers/officials connected with the conduct of the election. These include but are not restricted to:

   i) The Chief Electoral Officer and Additional/Joint/Deputy Chief Electoral Officers;

   ii) Divisional Commissioners;

   iii) The District Election Officers, Returning Officers, Assistant Returning Officers and other Revenue Officers connected with the Conduct of Election;

   iv) Officers of the Police Department connected with the management of election like range IGS and DlGS, Senior Superintendents of Police and Superintendents of Police, Sub-Divisional Police Officers like Deputy Superintendents of Police and other Police officers who are deputed to the Commission under section 26A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951;

   v) The transfer orders issued in respect of the above categories of officers prior to the date of announcement but not implemented till date should not be given effect to without obtaining specific permission from the Commission in this regard;

   vi) This ban shall be effective till the completion of the election. The Commission further directs that the State Governments should refrain from making transfers of senior officers who have a role in the management of election in the State;
vii) In those cases where transfer of an officer is necessary on account of administrative exigencies, the concerned State Government may with full justification approach the Commission for prior clearance.

7. The receipt of the letter may kindly be acknowledged.

Yours faithfully,

[NARENDRA N. BUTORIA]
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY
OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Bye election to the Maharashtra Legislative Council from Yavatmal Local Authorities' Constituency – Applicability of Model Code of Conduct – reg.

The undersigned is directed to enclose herewith a copy of letter No. 100/LET/ECII/FUNC/MT-LC-LAC/18/BIEN/2019/443 dated 03.01.2020 received from Election Commission of India for further necessary action.

End: A/a

All Secretaries to the Government of India

[Signature]
25.1.2020
(Ashutosh Jindal)
Joint Secretary
Tel. 23012697
To

1. The Cabinet Secretary,
   Government of India,
   Rashtrapati Bhawan,
   New Delhi.

2. The Chief Secretary to the Government of
   Maharashtra, Mumbai

3. The Chief Electoral Officer,
   Maharashtra, Mumbai

Subject: Bye election to the Maharashtra Legislative Council from Yavatmal Local Authorities’ Constituency – Applicability of Model Code of Conduct - regarding.

Sir,

I am directed to state that the Commission has announced bye election to the Maharashtra Legislative Council from Yavatmal Local Authorities’ Constituency vide Press Note No. ECI/PN/03/2020 dated 3rd January, 2020.

2. With this announcement, the provisions of the Model Code of Conduct contained in Commission’s instruction No. 322/ECI/INST/FUNC/BIEN-LC/2016 dated 26th December, 2016, for the guidance of the Political Parties and Candidates have come into force with immediate effect in the above mentioned poll bound Constituency.

3. A copy of instruction No. 322/ECI/INST/FUNC/BIEN-LC/2016 dated 26th December, 2016 is enclosed. This may be brought to the notice of all concerned Departments of State/Central Government.

4. The receipt of this letter may kindly be acknowledged.

Yours faithfully

(VARINDER KUMAR)
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY
To

The Chief Electoral Officers
1. Maharashtra, Mumbai,
2. Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow,
3. Bihar, Patna,
4. Karnataka, Bangalore,
5. Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.
6. Telangana, Hyderabad.

Subject: Biennial/Bye-Elections to the Legislative Councils from Council Constituencies -
by Graduates’ and Teachers’ and Local Authorities’ Constituencies - MCC-
Instructions - regarding,

Sir,

I am directed to state that some experience during conduct of elections to
Legislative Councils shows that there is lack of clarity with regard to applicability of
provisions of Model Code of Conduct in such elections.

2. The Commission constituted a Working Group to examine the matter. The
Commission, having considered the report of the Working Group and the matter in its
entirety, has directed that all provisions of Model Code of Conduct for the political parties
and candidates’ shall apply mutatis mutandis in Biennial including Bye Elections to the
State Legislative Councils from Graduates’ & Teachers’ Constituencies as well as Local
Authorities’ Constituencies. Consequently, various instructions issued by the Commission
from time to time in clarification of the MCC provisions would also apply for such
elections.

3. I am further to say that the following instructions of the Commission which have
been issued from time to time to ensure level playing field and also to ensure that a party
in power doesn’t misuse its position for electoral gains, shall also be applicable in
connection with Biennial/Bye Elections to the State Legislative Councils from Graduates’
& Teachers’ Constituencies as well as Local Authorities’ Constituencies (from the date of
announcement of election till the date of completion of election).
I. Ministers, whether Central or State (including Chief Minister) may make official visit to any district(s) in which any Biennial/Bye-election from a Council Constituency is being held subject to the following conditions:

a. They shall not do any inauguration/laying of foundation stones of any educational institution, which are constituents of Graduates' and Teachers' Constituencies.

b. Official visit shall not be combined with the election related work/tours.

c. There shall be no announcement of new policy programme/policy likely to influence the graduates, the teachers and members of Local Authorities who form the electorate of the Constituencies going to poll.

II. No official of any rank of the district(s) dealing with election related work where the biennial/bye-elections are being held shall be called to attend any meeting by any Minister at any place, even in another district, where election is not being held. Any official who meets the Minister on his private visit to the constituency where elections are being held shall be deemed to be guilty of misconduct under the relevant service rules; and if he happens to be an officer 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 there under.

III. No member of any Local Authority which forms part of the electorate of a Local Authorities' Constituency shall be called for any meeting/video conference by any Minister (in his capacity as Minister). Routine meetings of the Local Bodies, when essential, may be held with the prior permission of the District Election Officer of the District concerned.

IV. No pilot car(s) or other 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 private visit to the constituency, even if the State administration has granted him a security cover requiring presence of armed guards accompanying him on tour.

V. No policy announcement or programme, which influences the electorate either directly or indirectly, shall be initiated in the Government Departments till the completion of elections.
VI. On need basis and in consultation with CEO of the state/ECI Observer, the DEO/RO should put in place for every toshil a special video team to videograph political meeting at public places and to record visits of the Ministers and other important political functionaries. The ECI observer shall see the video recording in the evening of the same day so that he can report any violation to the Commission in prescribed format.

VII. In case of elections from Local Authorities’ Constituencies, the restrictions on “Official Tours” by Central & State Ministers will also be applicable to the use of any “Official Cars” by “Office Bearers” of Local Authorities, like, Mayors of Municipal Corporations, Presidents of Municipal Councils & Zilla Parishads. The use of official cars by them shall only be allowed for travel to & from Office to Residence.

VIII. Public places such as maidans etc., for holding election meetings, and use of helipads for air-flights in connection with elections shall not be monopolized by the party in power. Other parties and candidates shall also be allowed to use them on first-cum-first served basis.

IX. No fresh Sanction of work using the IT Platform to be issued depending upon the MP/MLA/MLC schemes for work that would amount to influencing the electorate.

X. There shall be a total ban on the transfer of Returning Officers and Assistant Returning Officers appointed for Biennial elections/bye-elections to State Legislative Councils after the announcement of elections and this ban will be in force till the completion of elections. The transfer orders in respect of the above officers issued prior to the date of announcement but not implemented should not be given effect to without obtaining the specific permission of the Commission. In those cases, where transfer of an officer is necessary on account of administrative exigencies, the State Govt. may with full justification approach the Commission for prior clearance.

XI. In order to conduct free and fair elections to keep a check on adverse role of money power and to check the movement of black money during biennial elections/bye-elections to Legislative Council, the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) issued on 29.05.2015, excepting deployment of Static Surveillance Teams, should be made applicable.
XII. State and District Media Certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC) shall be appointed, as prescribed in the Compendium of Instructions on Election Expenditure Monitoring, immediately on announcement of biennial/bye elections for pre-certification of election advertisements as in case of TV Channels / Cable Network, Radio including private FM Channels, Cinema Halls, Audio-Visual displays in public place and social media and also monitoring the general conduct of political functionaries during campaign.

XIII. The bulk SMSs/Voice messages on phone in election campaigning shall also be in the purview of pre-certification of election advertisements as in case of TV Channels / Cable Network, Radio including private FM Channels, Cinema Halls, Audio-Visual displays in public place and social media. The legal provisions, as applicable to other modes of electronic media shall also be applicable to bulk SMSs/Voice messages.

XIV. Under Section 29 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 read with Rule 69 of the Conduct of the Election Rules, 1961, a place of poll is fixed for conducting poll in respect of election to the Council of States and the State Legislative Councils by MLAs. As per Section 135C, "dry-day" is to be declared in Polling Areas and polling area is defined in Section 25 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, which is applicable to elections from Constituencies i.e. for elections to Lok Sabha, Legislative Assemblies and elections to Legislative Councils from Graduates', Teachers' and Local Authorities' Constituencies.

XV. The provision regarding prevention of misuse of vehicles and regulation of convoys during campaign period as in the case of elections to House of People / Legislative Assemblies shall be made applicable for Council elections also.

XVI. Restriction on the presence of political functionaries in a constituency after the campaign period is over i.e., 48 hours before the closure of the poll as in the case of elections to House of People / Legislative Assemblies shall be made applicable for Council elections from Council Constituencies also.

4. In the context of certain queries that have been raised in this connection, it is clarified that:

(a) The practice of keeping the electors in hotels/resorts and other similar places during election period would amount to bribing of electors. It is clarified that
such practice shall be construed as violation of sub Para (4) of Para 1-General Conduct of MCC apart from being violation of Section 171 B of IPC.

(b) The phrase 'the rest houses/dak bungalows or other Government accommodation' in paragraph (VII- (iii)) of MCC would also include Guest Houses of all institutions that are getting Government assistance in any form of grant-in-aid etc.

(c) With regard to paragraph (VII-(v) & (vi)) of MCC, it is clarified that these would be made applicable only with regard to the Graduates'/Teachers'/Local Authorities' Constituencies where the election is being held.

Kindly inform all concerned including all registered and recognized parties based in your state.

Please ensure compliance.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]

(R.K. SRIVASTAVA)
Sr. Principal Secretary