

**STATE ELECTION COMMISSION
PUDUCHERRY**

No. 1-30(1)/SEC/CE/Dir./2021/ 559

Dated. 2.9.2021

DIRECTION

Sub: Use of Loudspeakers for election campaigns

All political parties, candidates and their workers, supporters and sympathizers tend to use loudspeakers for their election campaigns. These loudspeakers are not only used from fixed rostrums but are also used mounted/fitted on vehicles like trucks, tempos, cars, taxis, vans, three wheeler scooters, cycle rickshaws, etc. These vehicles move on all roads, streets and lanes and also around villages, colonies and localities with the loudspeakers broadcasting at very great volume. This results in serious 'noise pollution' and causes great disturbance to the peace and tranquility of the general public.

2. The Commission is aware that the use of loudspeakers cannot be stopped altogether during the election period as the loudspeakers are one of the means of election propaganda and imparting information to public. But at the same time, indiscriminate and unfettered use of loudspeaker at odd hours and at odd places at very high volumes, which have the effect of disturbing peace and tranquillity and causing annoyance to the general public, the sick, and the student community in particular cannot be permitted. Some reasonable restrictions are essential.

3. The Commission therefore hereby DIRECTS that the use of loudspeakers in the elections shall be strictly regulated as follows:-

- (i) The use of loudspeakers, whether fitted on vehicles of any kind whatsoever, or in static position used for public meetings for electioneering purposes, during the entire election period starting from the date of announcement of election and ending with the date of declaration of results shall be permitted only (a) between 7.00 a.m. and 10.00 p.m in rural areas i.e. areas outside municipal Limits; and (b) between 8.00 a.m. and 10.00 p.m. in other areas, i.e. areas falling within municipal limits.
- (ii) All loudspeakers whether used for general propaganda or for public meetings or procession, and whether used on moving vehicles or otherwise, shall be used during the restricted hours only mentioned in clause (i) above and never beyond.

- (iii) All loudspeaker being used beyond the hours as prescribed above, shall be confiscated along with all the apparatus connected with the use of these loudspeakers.
- (iv) All political parties, candidates and any other persons using any loudspeakers on moving vehicles including but not restricted to trucks, tempos, cars, taxis, vans, three wheeler scooters, cycle rickshaws, etc. shall intimate the registration identification number of those vehicles to the authorities granting permission to use the loudspeakers and such registration identification numbers of the vehicles shall be indicated on the permits granted by the authorities concerned.
- (v) Any vehicle on which a loudspeaker is used without the said written permit shall be confiscated forthwith along with the loudspeaker and all the apparatus used along with it.
- (vi) All political parties, candidates and even other person using loudspeaker either on a moving vehicle or at a fixed place shall intimate - (1) the Returning Officer / Assistant Returning Officer of the Constituency, and (2) local Police authorities, in writing, the full details of the permits obtained by them before using any of those loudspeakers. In the case of mobile loudspeakers, the registration identification numbers of the vehicles shall also be registered by them with the Returning Officer and the local Police authorities.
- (vii) It shall be the responsibility of the DEO/REO offices granting permits for use of loudspeakers and the local Police authorities to strictly enforce that no loudspeaker is used by anyone in violation of any of the above directions.

4. No loudspeakers fitted on vehicles of any kind or in any other manner whatsoever shall be permitted to be used during the period of 72 hours ending with the hour fixed for the conclusion of the poll in any polling area. Even after the close of poll, proper law and order is required to be maintained till completion of election after the declaration of result. Use of loudspeakers is generally regarded as source of public nuisance and can often give rise to tension in a politically surcharged atmosphere. The District/Regional Administrations should, therefore, consider any application for permission to use loudspeakers after the aforesaid prohibitory period of 72 hours on the merit of each application and keeping in view the need to maintain proper law and order till the completion of election.

5. The above directions of the Commission, which will check noise pollution and disturbance of public peace and tranquillity must be scrupulously implemented and strictly

enforced by all the authorities concerned. Any violation thereof will be viewed by the Commission with grave concern and will invite severe disciplinary action against the defaulting officers.

6. A copy of this order shall be made available to local units of all recognized National and State parties in English/Tamil and in local official languages, under acknowledgement.

7. The DEOs/REOs and ROs/AROs shall ensure strict compliance of this direction without fail.

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(ROY P THOMAS)
STATE ELECTION COMMISSIONER

To

1. The District Election Officer, Puducherry / Karaikal.
2. The Regional Election Officer, Mahe / Yanam.
3. All Returning Officers / Assistant Returning Officers, Puducherry / Karaikal / Mahe / Yanam.