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OFFICE OF THE

## **ELECTION AUTHORITY**

**UNDER PANCHAYATI RAJ ACT, 1989** 

## (CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER, JAMMU & KASHMIR)

2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR VIKAS BHAWAN, RAIL HEAD COMPLEX, JAMMU

The District Panchayat Election Officer, (Deputy Commissioner),/ Sr. Superintendant of Police Kupwara/Baramulla/Bandipora/Ganderbal/Srinagar/Budgam/Pulwama/Shopian/Kulgam/Anantnag/Kishtwar/Doda/Leh/Kargil Ramban/Udhampur/Reasi/Kathua/Samba/Jammu/Rajouri/Poonch.

No. 5205 /Pyt/2011/4/02-3/

Dated: 10/04/2011

Subject: Restrictions on presence of political functionaries in a Constituency after the campaign period is over-Regarding

Sir/Madam,

In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 36 of Panchayat Raj Act, 1989, the Election Authority has decided that the election campaign in a Panch / Sarpanch constituency will come to an end thirty six (36) hours before the hours fixed for the commencement of poll in that constituency.

In this context, all the District Panchayat Election Officers should ensure that as per Authority's instructions, no campaign should take place within the constituency/block after the closure of campaign period.

Even though the Panchayat Elections are being held on non -party basis, it has been observed that contesting candidates are mobilizing their supporters, including those brought from outside the constituency / block, in order to bolster that campaign. In view of the fact that after the closure of campaign period, no campaign can take place within the constituency, the presence of political functionaries / party workers / procession functionaries / campaign functionaries etc., who have been brought from outside the constituency and who are not voters of the constituency, should not be allowed in the constituency/ block as their continued presence after campaign ends may undermine the atmosphere for a free and fair poll.

The Election Authority has therefore directed that after the campaign period is over, the District Magistrate ( Deputy Commissioner ) and the Superintendant of Police shall personally ensure that all the such functionaries should leave the constituency immediately after the campaign period is over. This shall be brought to the notice of all the political parties, candidates and their agents in order to enable them to comply.

The Election Authority further directs that in order to ensure that the above instructions are carried out, the election administration / police administration may take all necessary measures which may include: -

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- i. Checking of Hotels/ community halls/ Sarai's etc., where such people are kept housed and find out whether the outsiders have been accommodated in these premises.
- ii. Verification of lodges and guesthouses to keep a track of the list of occupants.
- iii. Set up check-posts in the constituency borders and track the vehicular movement from outside the constituency.
- iv. Verify the identity of the people / group of people in order to find out whether they are voters or not and establish their identity.
- v. This may be brought to the notice of all concerned and ensure strict compliance. Action taken in the matter may be informed to the Authority.
- vi. Set up check posts /nakas' in order to prevent /check en-bloc /un-authorised movement of liquor/cash/weapons etc.

All concerned may be asked to comply by the instructions given by Election Authority in true letter and sprit. Matter may be treated as Election Urgent.

Yours faithfully,

(B.R Sharma) IAS Chief Electoral Officer.

J&K, Jammu.

Copy for kind inf and n/a to the:-

- 1-2. Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir/Jammu.
- 3-4. I.G.P. Kashmir / Jammu Zone
- 5-6 Director Rural Development Department, Kashmir/Jammu.
- 7 Principal Private Secretary to Chief Secretary, J&K, Jammu for the kind information of the Chief Secretary.
- 8. Pvt. Secretary to Director General of Police for kind information of D.G.P
- 9-10 Assistant Chief Electoral Officer, Kashmir/Jammu.