CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER, DELHI  
OLD ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE BUILDING, KASHMERE GATE, DELHI-110006

No.CEO/COE/102(75)/2018/ 11856 - 78

Dated: - 05/03/19

To

The District Election officers of all eleven districts,
ROs of 7 PCs, Govt. of NCT of Delhi.

Sub: Making our Elections Eco-friendly.

Madam / Sir,

I am directed to forward herewith the copy of letter no.4/3/2019/SDR dated 26-02-2019 received from the ECI on the subject cited above wherein instructions have been issued regarding use of environment friendly campaign material during elections with the directions to bring these instructions in the knowledge of all political parties and candidates for compliance.

Encl: As stated

Yours faithfully,

ELECTION OFFICER (COE)

Dated: - 05/03/19

No.CEO/COE/102 (75)/2018/ 11856 - 78

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to:-

1. The SDMs (Election) of all eleven districts.

2. The Senior System Analyst (IT) with the request to upload the same under the link “Lok Sabha Election 2019” on the website of the Department.
ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA  
NIRVACHAN SADAN, ASHOKA ROAD, NEW DELHI – 110001  

No. 4/3/2019/SDR  
Dated:- 26th February, 2019  

To  

All Recognized National/State Political Parties.  

Subject:- Making our Elections Eco-friendly.  

Sir/Madam,  


In this connection, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has approached the Commission vide letter No. 12/79/2018-HSMD(Pt.) dated 17th January, 2019, (copy enclosed) with the request to impress upon all concerned to take up sustainable practices and try using alternate option to single-use plastic during elections. It, inter-alia, mentions:–  

"A lot of the campaigning material including posters, cut-outs, hoardings, banners, political advertisements, etc., is made of plastic. After the elections, the campaigning materials, are discarded and become waste. Such single-use plastic waste generated during campaigning does not get collected and causes choking of drainage and river systems, ingestion by stray animals, land and water pollution, open air burning, etc. leading to adverse impacts on human health and environment. Some of these plastics are Poly Vinyl Chloride (PVC) based, which produces toxic emissions on burning.  


A number of alternate options to use of plastic in campaigning material are available such as compostable plastics. Natural fabrics, recycled paper material etc., which have a lesser environmental impact. Such materials need to be promoted as a sustainable and environmentally sound management practice. The upcoming General Elections present an excellent opportunity to introduce a behavioral change in election campaign and to promote sustainable practices."

Your attention is also drawn to Para 3 of Commission’s instructions No. 509/241/ECI/LET/FUNC/JUD/RCC/2011 dated 20th April, 2018, which specifies that

"The Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, and other applicable laws in this regard are hereby adopted for disposal of the campaign material by the local municipal authority and the cost for the same shall be recovered from the candidates or political parties, as the case may be, in accordance with the polluter pays principle."

Accordingly, the Commission reiterates that all political parties should take adequate steps and measures to not use single-use plastic as campaign materials (posters, banners etc.,) during the elections in the interest of human health and environment.

Yours faithfully

(N.T. BHUTIA)
SECRETARY

Encl:- As above.

All CEOs with instructions to inform all the DEOs/ROs to bring these instructions in the knowledge of all political parties and candidates for compliance.
You are aware about India's commitment to phase out single-use plastic by 2020. The ill impacts of plastic waste, which are not recyclable or bio-degradable, are well known. I had earlier written to you with a request to phase out single-use plastic in offices. I am again reiterating the request, particularly with reference to the upcoming General Elections.

A lot of the campaigning material including posters, cut-outs, hoardings, banners, political advertisements, etc., is made of plastic. After the elections, the campaigning materials are discarded and become waste. Such single-use plastic waste generated during campaigning does not get collected and causes choking of drainage and river systems, ingestion by stray animals, land and water pollution, open air burning, etc., leading to adverse impacts on human health and environment. Some of these plastics are Poly Vinyl Chloride (PVC) based, which produces toxic emissions on burning.

A number of alternate options to use of plastic in campaigning material are available such as compostable plastics, natural fabrics, recycled paper material etc., which have a lesser environmental impact. Such materials need to be promoted as a sustainable and environmentally sound management practice. The upcoming General Elections present an excellent opportunity to introduce a behavioural change in election campaigning and to promote sustainable practices.

In this background, I would like to request you to impress upon all concerned to take up sustainable practices and try using alternate options to single-use plastic. This will go a long way in fulfilling India's commitment of phasing out single-use plastic as well as protecting human health and environment.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]
[C.K. Mishra]

Chief Secretaries (All States / UTs)

Copy to:

The Chief Electoral Officers of all States / UTs...... with a request to promote use of sustainable alternate materials during the campaign and also while using election material for election purposes.

[Signature]
[C.K. Mishra]
Don't use single-use plastic for LS poll campaign: Min

New Delhi: Ahead of the 2019 parliamentary elections, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has asked all States and Union Territories (UTs) not to use single-use plastic for poll preparations and to encourage use of alternative materials for election campaign.

The Ministry also laid down standard guidelines to be adopted for minimising production and use of single-use plastic.

CK Mishra, Secretary, MoEFCC, has written to all the states and UTs reiterating that single-use plastics need to be completely phased out from the country by 2020 so they should switch to alternate options for election campaign.

"You are aware about India's commitment to phase out single-use plastic by 2020. The ill-impacts of plastic waste, which are not recyclable or biodegradable, are well known..." Mishra said in his letter.

The secretary, in his letter to the chief secretaries and chief electoral officers of all the states and UTs on Monday, said all government offices must completely ban all types of plastic carry bags, thermocol disposable cutlery and discourage the use of artificial banners, flags, flowers, water bottles, plastic folders, etc. PTI