STATE ELECTION COMMISSION
TRIPURA: AGARTALA


ORDER

Subject: - General Elections to the Municipalities, 2015 Restrictions on movement of vehicles on the day of Poll.

In order to ensure free, fair and peaceful election to the Municipalities under the State following instructions are issued under Article 243k of the Constitution and all other powers enabling the Commission in this behalf.

1. The candidates of recognized political party will be entitled to use the following vehicle on the day of Poll.
   (a) 4(four) light vehicles in total for use of contesting candidates of all the constituencies under Agartala Municipal Corporation where political party will contest all the seats or not less than 35(thirty five) seats in total.
   (ii) If any political party contest 34 (thirty four) seats or less but more than 10 (ten) seats will get 2(two) vehicles
   (iii) Further, any political party contest up to 10 (ten) seats will be allowed to use 1(one) vehicle only.
   (b) One light vehicle for use of contesting candidates of all constituencies under a Nagar Panchayat and Municipal council area.
   (c) Election Agents or workers of the party may also use the said vehicles.
   (d) No other vehicles shall be allowed to be used by the leaders of the Political Parties/Candidates including Ministers, Workers, Agents and sympathizers of any candidate. No exception shall be made irrespective of the status of the candidate.
   (e) Not more than 5(five) persons including driver will be allowed to move in the vehicle allotted for the candidate on the day of poll.

2. The permits of the vehicles indicated above will be issued by the Returning Officer. The Political Parties are required to register their vehicles with the authority concerned (RO) and display the permits on the wind screen of the vehicles. No other vehicle shall be allowed to be used by the Contesting Candidates / Election Agents / Leaders of the Political parties including Ministers / Workers / Agents and sympathizers of any candidate.

3. The aforementioned restrictions shall apply to all vehicles propelled by mechanical power or otherwise including but not restricted to Taxis, Private Cars, Trucks, Tractors with or without Trailers, Auto Rickshaws, Scooters, Mini Buses, Station Wagon etc.

4. Penal action both under the provisions of the Tripura Municipal Act. 1994 and Chapter IXA of the Indian Penal Code, shall be taken against any one offending the above directions. In addition to action under the Motor Vehicle Acts, all vehicles being used in violation of these directions shall be confiscated.

5. There is no intension on the part of the commission to put a complete ban of all vehicular traffic on the polling day and thereby create difficulties or cause harassment to the public. For genuine bona-fide use for purposes other than elections, the following types of vehicles shall also be allowed to be plied on the day of poll.
(b) Private vehicles being used by owners either for themselves or for members of their own family for going to the polling booth to exercise their franchise, but not going anywhere within a radius of 200 Meters of a polling station;
(c) Vehicles being used for essential services namely, Hospital Vans. Ambulance, Milk Vans, Water Tankers, Electricity Emergency Duty Vans, Police on Duty, Officers on Election Duty;
(d) Public Transport Carriages like buses plying between fixed terminals on fixed routes.
(e) Taxis, three Wheeler Scooters, Rickshaws etc. for going to Airport, Bus Stands, Hospitals for Journeys which cannot be avoided.
(f) Private vehicles used by sick or disabled persons for their own use.

6. It has been experienced that during the period of electioneering private vehicles are used by the candidates, their agents and party leaders for transportation of their supporters of a candidate within the constituency and on many occasion antisocial elements with muscle power are openly paraded to instigate a sense of fear in the minds of the electorate, so that they either vote in favour of particular party / candidate or abstain from voting altogether. These vehicles are also used sometimes to smuggle illicit arms and ammunition with a view to creating disturbances during elections.

In order to curb such undesirable illegal activities, the Commission further directs that the District Administration and Police authorities shall keep a close watch on the vehicles used by persons accompanying the contesting candidates and their party leaders for any possible mischief, including criminal activities like carrying of illegal arms and weapons. If any of these vehicles, either of a party or a private owner, if found to be involved in any such act or for carting anti-social elements with a view to intimidating or creating terror in the mind of the electorate, it shall be duty of the local administration to impound such vehicles and not to release them till the process of elections is completed. In addition, criminal action against the owner, the occupant(s) and the candidate / political party which is involved in such illegal activities shall also be taken as per law.

7. Movement of two wheelers in a group is also restricted on the day of poll. Only one pillion rider is allowed on two wheeler on the day of poll.

8. All authorities concerned shall fully ensure these directions are scrupulously followed in respect of all vehicles. Utmost care shall also be taken to ensure that no misuse of any vehicle is made in the garb of use for “Bona fide” purpose or personal use.

Sd/-
(G. Kameswara Rao)
State Election Commissioner
Tripura

Copy forwarded to information and necessary action to:
1. The Chief Secretary, Government of Tripura.
2. The Director General of Police, Tripura, Agartala.
6. All Returning Officers for Municipal Elections.

(T. Majumder)
Secretary
State Election Commission
Tripura

Copy to:-

1) The President / Secretary, INC / CPI (M) / CPI / BJP / NCP / RSP / CPI / AIFB / AITMC / INPT / IPFT / CPIM (L) for information.