WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTION COMMISSION  
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No. 303-SEC/4D-10/2015

Date :05.04.2017

From : The Secretary,  
West Bengal State Election Commission

To : The District Magistrate & District Municipal Election Officer  
Darjeeling / Kalimpong / Uttar Dinajpur / Murshidabad / South 24 Parganas

Sub.: Model Code of Conduct - use of loud speakers.

Madam /Sir,

I am directed to invite your attention to provisions of sub para 4 of para II of the Model Code of Conduct, regarding use of Loudspeakers by the political parties, candidates in connection with election campaign.

2. The Commission is aware that the use of loudspeakers can not be stopped all together during the election period as the loud speakers are one of the means of election campaign but at the same time, indiscriminate and unfettered use of loudspeakers at odd hours and at odd places at very high volume which have the effect of disturbing peace and tranquility and causing annoyance to the public in general, the sick people and the student community in particular can not be permitted. Some reasonable restrictions are essential in this regard.

3. After considering all aspects of the matter, the Commission in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 243ZA of the Constitution of India and in supersession of its earlier instructions, hereby directs that the use of loudspeakers at the ensuing Municipal General 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 meeting during the entire period starting from the date of announcement of election and ending with the date of declaration of result shall be permitted only between 6.00 A.M. to 10.00 P.M. The use of such loud speakers will be banned for a prohibitory period of 48 hours preceding the close of the Poll in any polling area.

(ii) All loudspeakers if used beyond the hours as prescribed above shall be confiscated along with all the apparatus connected with the loudspeakers.

(iii) Political parties, candidates and any other person using loudspeakers either on a moving vehicle or at a fixed place shall obtain prior permission from competent authority.
The above direction may kindly be brought to notice of Municipal Returning Officers.

A copy of this order may be made available to Local units of all recognized National and State Political parties for their information.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]

Secretary

West Bengal State Election Commission