

MOST URGENT
GETNLA, 2021



**PUBLIC (ELECTIONS.VIII) DEPARTMENT,
SECRETARIAT, CHENNAI-600 009.**

Letter No. 2300/Ele-VIII(1)/2021-4, Dated 26.02.2021

From
Thiru. Satyabrata Sahoo, I.A.S.,
Chief Electoral Officer &
Principal Secretary to Government.

To
All Principal Secretaries / Secretaries to Government,
Departments of Secretariat, Chennai - 600 009.
(Including Law & Legislative Assembly Secretariat)
The Director General of Police, Tamil Nadu, Chennai-4.
All District Election Officers.
The Director of Information and Public Relations,
Secretariat, Chennai-600 009.
(with enclosures to all)

Sir / Madam,

Sub: ELECTIONS - General Elections to Tamil Nadu
Legislative Assembly, 2021 - **Model Code of Conduct** -
Display of photographs/Calendar/images etc. of
National Leaders and prominent personalities in the
Government offices/Premises - Election Commission's
instructions and clarifications - Reiterated-Reg.

- Ref: 1. From the Election Commission of India, Letter
No.437/6/INST/2008-CC&BE, dated: 28.03.2009.
2. From the Election Commission of India, Letter
No. 437/6/INST/2008-CC&BE, dated: 01.04.2009.

I am directed to invite your attention to the reference first cited wherein the Election Commission of India, has instructed that during Model Code period no calendars, pictures, etc., having the photographs of the Prime Minister, Chief Ministers, Ministers and other political functionaries should be displayed anywhere in any of the Government / Public Buildings. Only the pictures of Mahatma Gandhi, the incumbent President of India and the incumbent Governor of the State concerned may continue to be displayed. Further, the Election Commission of India has requested that all such calendars / pictures should be removed from the building of the Government / Public Buildings immediately.

2. The Election Commission of India in its letter second cited, has stated that the underlying intention of the Commission's instruction was that the photographs and images of the political functionaries, who have deep influence on the minds of electors and many of whom are still active in public life and may even be contesting the current general elections, should not be displayed in the Government Buildings and premises as that would have the effect of disturbing the level playing field vis-à-vis the political functionaries of other parties and candidates.

P.T.O.,

3. The Election Commission of India has also stated that in view of the inputs received, the Commission had issued the above instructions. In the meanwhile, certain doubts have been raised and clarification has been sought about the removal of the images of some national leaders, poets and prominent historical personalities of the past. In this regard, the Commission would like to state that the above mentioned underlying purpose of the instruction needs to be fully appreciated while being acted upon. It is clarified that while the photographs of Prime Minister, Chief Ministers and other political functionaries should not be displayed, this instruction, however, is not applicable with regard to the images of national leaders, poets and prominent historical personalities of the past, and the President of India and the Governors. It is further clarified that in case of any doubt in this regard regarding removal of photograph or images, the issue may be referred to the Chief Electoral Officer concerned before taking action in the matter. A copy of each of the references cited are enclosed herewith for reference.

4. The above instructions are to be brought to the notice of Head of Departments and all other officials under your control, for strict adherence during the General Elections to Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, 2021.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature] 26.2.2021
for Chief Electoral Officer &
Principal Secretary to Government.

Copy to:-
The Chief Secretary to Government,
Secretariat, Chennai -600 009.
[for kind information]

Rec. DI/PR. 81 /2021/26 . 2. 2021

Copy Communicated to all PUs. / ARDs.
of 10 ACs. in Madu. Dist. for info. to H.A.

To
• All PUs / ARDs.
• All HODs. of Madu. Dist.
Copy to: The Nodal officer
MCE.
Copy to: PC to Coltr. / PC to DRO.

For District Election Officer and
District Collector, Madurai
[Signature] 26/02/2021
26.02.2021 / 26.2.2021