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***PRESS RELEASE***

For the General Elections to Lok Sabha 2019, flying squads were constituted for each Assembly Constituency to track illegal cash transactions or any distribution of liquor or any other items suspected of being used for bribing the voters. For monitoring distribution of / hoarding of large quantities of cash, illegal liquor, any suspicious items or arms being carried inside the constituency limits, Static Surveillance Teams are also constituted.

As per the direction of the Election Commission of India, GPS based Vehicle Tracking System were fixed in the Flying Squad / Static Surveillance Teams vehicles and EVMs/ VVPATs transportation vehicles which carries polling materials for the General Elections to Lok Sabha, 2019.

In this regard, a Centralized Control Centre is functioning (with requisite infrastructure and manpower) in the office of the Chief Electoral Officer. 2 Nos. of District Revenue Officers are temporarily deputed to the Control Room in the office of Chief Electoral Officer to monitor the Control Room of Vehicle Tracking System from 28.03.2019 to 18.04.2019. The above said officers have been monitoring the manpower (i.e. 13 persons on 2 shifts) deployed to monitor the movement of vehicles and also to resolve the issues regarding expenditure monitoring with the assistance of the Control Room functioning in the office of the District Election Officers. An online real time monitoring of these GPS enabled vehicles is done through an app and webpage service which is named as Garuda. Through Garuda system, the centralized Control Room and the Control Rooms in all 32 districts at DEO level, monitor and track the movement and activities of 2089 vehicles on a real time basis.

The Garuda app given to FST / SST have the provision of entering the seizure details on a daily basis which is being reviewed both at DEO and CEO level.

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