

Public (Elections-III) Department

PRESS RELEASE

The Election Commission of India has pointed out that feed back has been received that 'Dummy Candidates' are being set up by various political parties and candidates in order to hoodwink the ceiling on election expenditure. The dummy candidates are normally set up for the following reasons:

- i) The vehicle permission taken in the name of dummy candidate is actually used for the campaign of some other candidate in order to hoodwink the expenditure ceiling.
- ii) On the poll day, the vehicles permitted for the dummy candidate and his election agent and others are actually used for some other candidate.
- iii) The polling agents and counting agents of the dummy candidate actually function as the agents of the another candidate and thereby disturb the level playing field at the polling station on the poll day and in the counting centre on the day of counting.

2. The Election Commission of India has instructed that the election machinery should be vigilant and find out whether the candidate is actually working as a dummy of other candidate. A video recording of campaigning by such suspected dummy candidates should be done. Evidence should be collected by using video camera, recording of statement of witnesses, etc. After that a notice should be issued to the candidate and simultaneously vehicles permitted for the campaign of such dummy candidate and their actual use should be reviewed. Once the misuse of vehicles is established, the vehicles permitted for the campaigning purposes will be withdrawn by the Returning Officer since the candidate is not serious about his own

candidature. The fact that the particular candidate was canvassing for another candidate should be put on public domain and widely published. Apart from this, immediate action under Section 171H of IPC should also be initiated against those dummy candidates.

3. The Election Commission of India has further directed that the Returning Officer / Observer should issue notice to the candidate in whose favour the dummy candidate was found to be operating asking him to include the expenditure incurred by dummy candidate into his election expenditure.

4. Instructions have been accordingly been issued to all DEOs/ROs by the CEO's office.

Chief Electoral Officer,
Tamil Nadu.

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