

It has been brought to notice that the temporary Campaign Offices being set up by political parties / prospective candidates are giving rise to law and order problems and are affecting the peace and tranquility of the area where they are set up. In some cases these have been set up in poramboke / Government lands which has to be viewed only as encroachment.

2. According to the instructions of the Election Commission -
 - (a) No such office will be opened by way of any encroachment either on public or private property
 - (b) No such office will be opened in any religious place or campus of such religious places
 - (c) No such office will be opened contiguous to any educational institution / hospital
 - (d) No such office will be opened within 200 meters of an existing polling station
 - (e) Such offices can display only one party flag and banner with party symbols / photographs
 - (f) The size of the banner used in such offices should not exceed 4 feet x 8 feet subject to the further condition that if the local laws prescribe a lower size for banner / hoarding etc., then the lower size prescribed by local law shall prevail.

3. Apart from the above restrictions which have to be followed very strictly, it is also necessary that the Campaign Office of one party / candidate should be separated from that of the other by a minimum distance of 100 meters so that there is no altercation or clash among the workers of the two groups. The location of the office should not cause any hindrance or obstruction to traffic. The Campaign Office should not be utilized for organizing distribution of cash or gifts or for serving of food.

4. In order to ensure that no problem arises from the law and order angle or there is disturbance to peace and tranquility in the area and that the restrictions imposed by the Election Commission are followed, it is necessary that permission is obtained for putting up of Campaign Offices. An undertaking should be obtained from the applicant(s) that the location of the Campaign Office conforms to the stipulations of the Commission and that no distribution of cash, gifts or serving of food would be taken up either directly or by issue of tokens and that further the pathway would not be obstructed as a result of the Campaign Office being set up and its functioning.

CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER,
TAMIL NADU.