

Press Release

Apart from resort to money power for bribing the electors, there are visible expenses on known or legally permitted mode of campaigning such as public meetings, ads, leaflets/pamphlets, etc., which need to be properly accounted for and kept under check. The Supreme Court has in L.R. Shrivaramagowde Vs. P.M. Chandrashekar - AIR 1999 SC 252 held that the Election Commission can go into the correctness of the account of election expenses filed by the candidates and disqualify a candidate under Section 10A of the RoP Act 1951 in case the account is found to be incorrect or untrue.

Inasmuch as video-coverage is undertaken for public meetings and processions, the DEO and the Returning Officer were instructed to check and assess the value of pandals, arches and cut-outs and compare with the figures of expenditure furnished in the accounts by the candidates for the Pennagaram bye-elections.

With reference to the position as on 19.03.2010 the difference in amount to be included (i.e., not included in the accounts submitted by the candidates) has been assessed to range from Rs.4.15 lakhs for the PMK candidate to Rs.6.22 lakhs in the case of the AIADMK candidate and Rs.6.46 lakhs for DMK candidate.

It is noticed that for the campaigning by the VIPs, a large number of cut-outs, arches, pandals, lights etc., are put up and the expenditure on this will be worked out based on the video-recording done and added to the expenditure account. The 2 Observers of the ECI are monitoring this closely.

Nach Appa
CEO, TN 23.03.10

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