

**Press Release**

Doubts have been raised in the context of the bye-elections in Madurai Central Assembly Constituency on whether campaigning is to be permitted for the Local Body Elections during the period of 48 hours ending with the hour fixed for the conclusion of the poll, i.e., from 5.00 pm on October 9<sup>th</sup> to 5.00 pm on October 11<sup>th</sup>.

According to Sec.126 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, public meetings, campaigning, etc. are prohibited in any polling area during the period of 48 hours ending with the hour fixed for the conclusion of the poll (for Assembly or Parliament elections). If the campaigning for the local body elections is of such a nature that it can be even remotely linked to that for the bye-election to Madurai Central Assembly Constituency (like seeking vote for a party or display of any election matter), then the provisions of Section 126 of Representation of the People Act, 1951 will be attracted. There is no escape from that and shelter cannot be taken on the ground that campaigning is for the local body elections.

The political parties / candidates concerned are advised to keep the above aspect in mind as otherwise they may get hit by the provisions of Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. It may also be mentioned that while prohibition on campaigning etc will apply in the entire Assembly Constituency area the Model Code of Conduct will be applicable to the entire district.

CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER,  
TAMIL NADU

**Issued by:-** The Director of Information and Public Relations, Chennai-9