

Public (Elections-III) Department

PRESS RELEASE

The Election Commission of India has announced the schedule for the Bye-election to Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly from 142.Madurai West Assembly Constituency to be held on 26-06-2007. The Model Code of Conduct comes into effect from 25-05-2007. The Model Code of Conduct lays down broad guidelines as to how the Political Parties and candidates should conduct themselves during election campaign and to ensure peace and order. In regard to tours of Ministers the Election Commission has stipulated the following:-

- (i) All Ministers whether Central or State, shall not combine in any manner their official tours with election work after the announcement of the bye-elections. They shall return to their headquarters on completion of their official tours. All and any visits to the district where bye-election is being held and where Model Code of Conduct is, therefore, in force, have to be completely private in nature and such private visits should begin and end at the Minister's headquarters.
- (ii) In case where a Minister travelling on official work transits through the district(s) where the bye-election is being held en route to any other district on official visit, he shall not halt in the district (s) where Model Code of Conduct is in force and shall not attend to any political work.
- (iii) No official of any rank of the district(s) where the bye-election is being held shall be called to attend any meeting by any Minister in any district, that is to say, even in the other districts where election is not being held.

- (iv) Any official who meets the Minister on his private visit to the constituency where elections are being held shall be guilty of misconduct under the relevant service rules; and if he happens to be an official mentioned in Section 129(1) of the Representation of People Act, 1951, he shall also be additionally considered to have violated the statutory provisions of that section and liable to penal action provided there under.

- (v) No pilot car(s) with beacon lights of any colour or car(s) affixed with sirens of any kind making his presence conspicuous shall be used by any Minister/ Central or State during his private visit to the constituency even if the State administration has granted him a security cover requiring presence of armed guards accompanying him on tour.

Chief Electoral Officer.

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