

# ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi 110001

No.437/6/COMP/ECI/LET/FUNCT/MCC/2024

Dated: 01.04.2024

## ORDER

Whereas, the Election Commission of India has announced General Election to the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha & Sikkim, 2024 vide its Press Note No. ECI/PN/23/2024, dated 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 and provisions of Model Code of Conduct for political parties and candidates have come into force from that very date; and

2. Whereas, Clause (2) of Part I 'General Conduct' of Model Code of Conduct for the Guidance of Political Parties and Candidates states that:

"Criticism of other political parties, when made, shall be confined to their policies and programme, past record and work. Parties and Candidates shall refrain from criticism of all aspects of private life, not connected with the public activities of the leaders or workers of other parties. Criticism of other parties or their workers based on unverified allegations or distortion shall be avoided."

3. Whereas, Para 3.8.2(ii) of Manual on Model Code of Conduct, 2019 provides that: -

"(a) Clause 3.8.2 (ii): Nobody should indulge in any activities or make any statements that would amount to attack on personal life of any person or statements that may be malicious or offending decency and morality."

4. Whereas, the Commission's advisory issued to the political parties on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 regarding plummeting levels of political discourse, inter-alia provides that: -

"9. iii. No aspect of the private life, not connected with the public activities, of the leaders or workers of other parties is to be criticized. Low level personal attacks to insult the rivals shall not be made."

5. Whereas, the Commission's above advisory further states that:
- "9. v.The political parties and candidates to refrain from any deeds/action/utterances that may be construed as being repugnant to the honour and dignity of women."
6. Whereas, the Commission received a complaint dated 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 from the All India Trinamool Congress wherein it was alleged that Shri Dilip Ghosh, Member of Parliament, made the following objectionable and disrespectful comment against Smt. Mamta Banerjee while addressing press; and
- English Transcript: *"Didi giye Goa te bole ami Goa r mey, Tripura tea mi Tripura r mey, baap to thik korun, jar tar mey howa thik noy"*
- English translation: *"When Didi goes to Goa she becomes Goa's daughter, in Tripura she says I am Tripura's daughter, decide who is your father, this is not right"*.
7. Whereas, the statement has been broadcasted and widely circulated by various news media channels; and
8. Whereas, the Commission had issued a show cause Notice no. 437/6/COMP/ECI/LET/FUNCT/MCC/2024, dated 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 to Shri Dilip Ghosh for violation of the aforesaid provisions of Model Code of Conduct for making the above quoted statement; and
9. Whereas, a reply dated 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 has been received from Shri Dilip Ghosh in response to the Commission's above said notice; and
10. Whereas, the Commission has carefully gone through the contents and averments made in the aforesaid reply of Shri Dilip Ghosh and has again gone through the statement made and is convinced that he has made a low-level personal attack and thus violated the provisions of Model Code of Conduct; and
11. Whereas, women have commanded highest respect in Indian society, past and present and while the Indian constitution and all institutions of the country have constantly

pursued the ideas and ideals of ensuring the rights and dignity of women on all fronts and further empowering them; and

12. Whereas, this Commission is duly engaged in strengthening women's representation and participation in the electoral process, and while the gender gap in electoral registration and voter turnout have vastly improved, and in fact women have surged ahead; and

13. Whereas, the Commission considers the whole process of conduct of election as a major enhancer of status of women in India and is committed not to allow any erosion of this status in any manner during the election period under its own aegis; and

14. Now, therefore the Commission hereby strongly condemns the impugned statements made by Shri Dilip Ghosh and strongly censures him for the above said misconduct. The Commission also strictly warns him to remain careful in his public utterances during the currency of Model Code of Conduct.

By Order,

(Ashwani Kumar Mohal)  
Secretary

To,

Shri Dilip Ghosh,  
Member of Parliament,  
Medinipur Constituency, West Bengal.  
(Through CEO, West Bengal)

Copy to:

Shri J P Nadda, National President, Bharatiya Janata Party, 6-A, Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Marg, New Delhi.

Kindly refer to the advisory issued by the Commission to all Political Parties on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 regarding plummeting level of political discourse, wherein it was inter-alia specifically brought to the notice that "The political parties and candidates to refrain from

any deeds/action/utterances that may be construed as being repugnant to the honour and dignity of women.”

You may please issue specific advisory to all party functionaries involved in election campaign and in interactions in public domain not to commit such type of violation as in the instant case, besides following the Model Code of Conduct in letter and spirit so as to not trigger a chain reaction of similar comments vitiating the election campaign.

By Order,



(Ashwani Kumar Mohal)  
Secretary