

By Special Messenger

## ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi 110001

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

Dated: 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2024

To

Shri Mallikarjun Kharge,  
President,  
Indian National Congress,  
24, Akbar Road,  
New Delhi

**Subject: General Election to the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha and Sikkim, 2024 – Violation of Model Code of Conduct- regarding.**

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the subject cited and to state that the Commission has issued an elaborate advisory to the political parties, vide its letter dated 01.03.2024, regarding the expected decorum by political parties and candidates, in general and Star Campaigners, in particular. All recognized political parties were instructed to bring that advisory in the cognizance of their candidates, star campaigners and other campaigners.

2. The Commission's advisory very unambiguously states that the political parties and candidates should refrain from any deeds/actions/utterances that may be construed as being repugnant to the honour and dignity of women. It was also emphasised therein that social media posts vilifying and insulting the rivals or posts which are in bad taste, or which are below dignity are not to be posted or shared.

3. The Commission taking cognizance of the derogatory remarks has issued an Order bearing No. 437/6/COMP/ECI/LET/FUNCT/MCC/2024, dated 1.4.2024 strongly censuring Ms. Supriya Shrinete, Chairperson, Social Media and Digital Platform, AICC . A copy of this Order was also endorsed to you. Through the said Order, you as President of INC, were asked to issue specific advisory to your party functionaries, involved in election campaign and in interaction in public domain, not to commit such type of violations. The Commission expected that a such serious issue after taken up at your level should have had a restraining effect.



4. However, yet another incident of the following undignified utterance by a senior political functionary of Indian National Congress namely, Shri Randeep Singh Surjewala, Member of Parliament and General Secretary, AICC has been brought to the notice of the Commission:

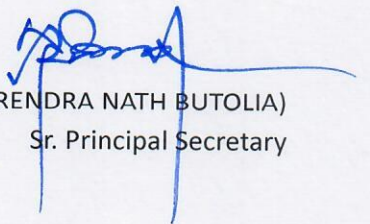
“MLA/MP क्यों बनाते हैं? ताकि वो हमारी आवाज़ उठा सकें, हमारी बात मनवायें, इसीलिए बनाते होंगे। कोई हेमा मालिनी तो है नहीं, जो चाटने के लिए बनाते हैं?”

5. Needless to say, that the above comments are undignified, vulgar and uncivilized and have not only caused great insult to Smt. Hema Malini and disrespect to her position as a Member of Parliament but also causes damage to honour and dignity of women legislators, across political formations, of women in public life and of all women in general.

6. It is unfortunate that despite the Commission bringing it to the notice of the party at your level, the campaigners of Indian National Congress are still indulging in utterances that are repugnant to the honour and dignity of women.

7. While the Commission is serving due notice for show cause to Shri Surjewala, it has also taken serious note of the repeated violations being made by senior political functionaries of Indian National Congress and hereby directs that the steps taken by the party to ensure strict compliance of the Commission's advisories relating to honour and dignity of women during public discourse may kindly be intimated to the Commission at the earliest but not later than end of the day on 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2024. At this stage, the Commission wishes to reiterate and you will agree that election campaign can not be allowed to become a platform for any kind of dishonour to women.

Yours faithfully

  
(NARENDRA NATH BUTOLIA)  
Sr. Principal Secretary