

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No. EC/PN/19/2009/M&TS

Dated 19th March, 2009

PRESS NOTE

Subject: General Election to the Lok Sabha, 2009 and certain State Legislative Assemblies - Allotment of Broadcast/Telecast time to Political Parties - regarding.

A copy of the Order No.437/TVs/2009/M&TS dated 19th March 2009 issued by the Commission regarding allotment of Broadcast/Telecast time to political parties in the General Election Lok Sabha and certain State Legislative Assemblies, 2009 is enclosed for the information of the general public.

**(B.M. SHARMA)
UNDER SECRETARY**

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

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Dated : 19th March , 2009

Subject:- General Election to Lok Sabha and certain State Legislative Assemblies, 2009- Telecast/Broadcast facility to political parties during elections

ORDER

At the time of General Elections to the Lok Sabha, in February, 1998 the Election Commission of India had taken up a new initiative for state funding of recognized political parties, through free use of state owned Television and Radio under directions of the Commission (vide Order No. ECI/GE98/437/MCS/98 dated 16th January, 1998).

2. The scheme was discussed in detail with representative of all national and state recognized political parties on the eve of the Lok Sabha Elections in 1998. All the Parties welcomed the proposal of the Election Commission. The Commission in comprehensive consultation with the Prasar Bharati Corporation, Doordarshan and All India Radio gave the operational parameters of the scheme.

3. The recognized National and State Political Parties were allotted 110 hours for telecast/broadcast over DD/AIR in the new scheme in connection with General Election to Lok Sabha, 2004. The concept of time vouchers for parties was also introduced at that time. The Scheme proved to be very useful and was much appreciated, particularly because it provided for state funding in a manner, which could not be misused.

4. The said scheme was subsequently extended in General Elections to Lok Sabha, 2004 and all state legislative assemblies held between 2004 to 2008.

5. With the Amendment to the Representation of People Act, 1951 vide Election and Other Related Laws (Amendment) Act, 2003” and the rules notified thereunder, equitable time-sharing for campaigning by recognized political parties on electronic media now has statutory basis. In exercise of the powers conferred by clauses (a) of the Explanation below section 39A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 the Central Government has notified all such broadcasting media which are owned or controlled or financed wholly or substantially by funds provided to them by the Central Government as the electronic media for the purpose of that section. The Commission has therefore. Now decided in consultation with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to extend the scheme of equitable time sharing on electronic media through Prasar Bharati Corporation to the ensuing General Election to Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies of certain States, 2009.

6. Accordingly, the Commission hereby directs as follows :-

Parties eligible for Telecast/Broadcast facility :

(i) The above facility of use of Doordarshan (DD) and All India Radio (AIR) shall be available in connection with the forthcoming general elections to the House of the People and the Legislative Assemblies of certain states, only to those seven (7) National Parties and thirty nine (39) State Parties, which are at present recognized as such National or State Parties, under the provision of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968 and whose names are shown in the list

annexed hereto as **Annexure –I.** This facility will not be available to registered-unrecognized political parties or any independent candidates.

Total time allotted for Telecast/Broadcast:

- (ii) The Prasar Bharati Corporation shall set apart

on Doordarshan

- (a) a total of not less than **10 hours** of telecasting time on the National channel of the Doordarshan, for telecasts by the National Parties;
- (b) a total of not less than **15 hours** of telecasting time on the Regional Doordarshan Kendras, for telecasts by the National Parties;
- (c) a total of not less than **30 hours** of telecasting time on the Regional Doordarshan Kendras, for telecasts by the State Parties; and
- (d) a total of 7 hours 30 minutes of telecasting time through the Regional Satellite Services channel available to viewers across the whole country.

On All India Radio

- (a) a total of not less than **10 hours** of broadcasting time on the National hookup the All India Radio, for broadcasts by the National Parties;
- (b) a total of not less than **15 hours** of broadcasting time on the Regional AIR Stations, for broadcasts by the National Parties;
- (c) a total of not less than **30 hours** of broadcasting time on the Regional AIR Stations the All India Radio, for broadcasts by the State Parties ;

- (d) a total of 7 hours 30 minutes of broadcasting time on the National hookup for broadcasts by the State Parties;

Allocation of Time to each Party:

- (iii) Each National and State Party shall be allotted time for telecasts over Doordarshan (DD) and broadcasts on All India Radio (AIR), according to the following parameters :-

For National Parties:

- (a) of the total ten hours telecasting/broadcasting time reserved over the National channel / hookup of DD/AIR for the National parties, 45 (forty five) minutes shall be allotted to each of the 7 National parties, i.e. a total of five hours and fifteen minutes (5-15 hrs), each on the DD & AIR separately;
- (b) the remaining four hours and forty five minutes (4-45 hours) telecasting/broadcasting time shall be further divided among the seven National parties, according to the percentage of votes polled by each such party, at the last general election to the House of People held in 2004.
- (c) in addition, each National Party shall be allotted one and a half times of the total time allotted to it under sub-paras (a) and (b) above, for

telecasts/broadcasts on the Regional Doordarshan Kendras/Regional AIR Stations;

- (d) of the total time so allotted to each National party under sub-para (c), each such party shall have the option to utilise the time so allotted on any of the Regional Doordarshan Kendra/State Capital AIR Station:

For State Parties:

- (e) of the total time of thirty (30) hours reserved for telecasting/broadcasting by the State parties on the Regional DD Kendras/Regional AIR Stations, each of 39 State Parties shall be allotted thirty five (35) minutes, i.e. a total of twenty three hours and fifteen minutes (23:15 hours), each on DD and AIR separately;
- (f) the remaining six hours and 45 minutes (6:45 hours) telecasting/broadcasting time for parties shall be further divided among the said 39 State parties, according to the percentage of votes polled by each such party in the State(s) in which it is recognized, at the last general election to the House of the People held in 2004, and the last general election to the Legislative Assembly of the State concerned, taken together;
- (g) in addition, each State party shall be allotted 10 minutes telecasting/broadcasting time on Regional Satellite Services channel of

DD available to viewers across the whole country and the National hookup of AIR.

Time Vouchers for Parties

- (iv) Each party shall be given time vouchers of denomination of 5 minutes equal to the total time allotted to it for telecasts on Doordarshan and broadcasts on AIR. That party shall have the discretion to choose any representatives and allow them to use those time vouchers, provided that no such individual representative shall be allowed to use more than 20 minutes of the total time allotted to that party, either on Doordarshan or on AIR.

Date of Telecasts/Broadcasts

- (v) The above telecasts/broadcasts shall span between the last date of nominations for the first phase and two days prior to the last of the dates of poll any where in India in case of Parliamentary elections, and the relevant State or States where elections for the respective State Assemblies are also being held simultaneously. The Prasar Bharati Corporation, in consultation with the Commission, will decide and announce the days of the week and the time slots during which these telecasts/broadcasts will be made.

- (vi) The actual date and time during which the above telecasts/broadcasts will be made by the authorized representatives of any party shall be predetermined, by lot, by the Prasar Bharati Corporation, in consultation with the Commission.
- (vii) While deciding about such Dates and Time, it shall be ensured that fairness and equity is maintained as far as possible and having due regards to the technical constraints in regard to the occasion and time for the telecasts/broadcasts by such parties.

Guidelines for observance in Telecasts/Broadcasts

- (viii) The telecasts/broadcasts on Doordarshan/AIR will not permit;
 - (a) criticism of other countries;
 - (b) attack on religions or communities;
 - (c) anything obscene or defamatory;
 - (d) incitement of violence
 - (e) anything amounting to contempt of court
 - (f) aspersions against the integrity of the President and Judiciary;
 - (g) anything affecting the unity, sovereignty and integrity of the National;
 - (h) any criticism by name of any persons.

Submission of Transcripts in advance

- (ix) The parties of their representatives shall have to submit, in advance, within the time frame as indicated by the Prasar Bharati Corporation on account of technical constrains, the transcripts of their

telecasts/broadcasts to the authorities specified in this behalf by the Prasar Bharati Corporation. Parties can have their transcripts, after approval, recorded at their cost in Private Studios; meeting required technical standards of the Prasar Bharati Corporation, provided that the symbol of the party with a wide background can be shown in any video recording. In case they require facilities of the Prasar Bharati Corporation, both Doordarshan and All India Radio, they will give sufficient advance notice to the concerned Station Director to make necessary arrangements.

Panel Discussions and Debate

- (x) In addition to the above-mentioned Party telecasts/broadcast, the Prasar Bharati Corporation may organise a maximum of two national panel discussion/debates on the national channel of Doordarshan and All India Radio. Each nationally recognized Party can nominate one representative to such programmes.

The Election Commission of India will approve the names of moderators for such panel discussions and debates in consultation with the Prasar Bharati Corporation.

- (xi) In the States, where Assembly elections are also being held simultaneously, similar debates and panel discussions may be arranged from the Regional Kendras of Doordarshan and All India Radio for elections to the concerned State Assemblies. In these programmes, the concerned State recognized parties will be permitted to participate.

Powers of the Election Commission to remove Difficulties

7. Notwithstanding anything contained in Para 6, the Election Commission may issue such further directions and instructions-
- (a) for the clarification of any of the provisions of this Order; or
 - (b) for the removal of any doubt which may arise in relation to the implementation of any such provision; or
 - (c) in relation to any matter with respect to the allotment of time to, or utilization of time by, any recognized National or State party, for which this Order makes no provision or makes insufficient provision, necessary for the smooth and orderly implementation of the scheme covered by this Order.
 - (d) the time allocated to the National and States parties, has been worked out and annexed hereto as Annexure II, III & IV.

By Order,

(R.K.Srivastava)
Secretary

LIST OF PARTY ABBREVIATION

Sl. NO	NAME OF THE NATIONAL PARTY	
1.	Bahujan Samaj Party	BSP
2.	Bharatiya Janata Party	BJP
3.	Communist Party of India	CPI
4.	Communist Party of India (Marxist)	CPI (M)
5.	Indian National Congress	INC
6.	Nationalist Congress Party	NCP
7.	Rashtriya Janata Dal	RJD

LIST OF STATE PARTIES

Sl No.	Name of Party	
1.	All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	ADMK
2.	All India Forward Bloc	AIFB
3.	All India Trinamool Congress	AITC
4.	Arunachal Congress	AC
5.	Assam United Democratic Front	AUDF
6.	Asom Gana Parishad	AGP
7.	Biju Janata Dal	BJD
8.	Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	DMK
9.	Indian National Lok Dal	INLD
10.	Jammu & Kashmir National Conference	JKN
11.	Jammu & Kashmir National Panthers Party	JKNPP
12.	Jammu & Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party	JKPDP
13.	Janata Dal (Secular)	JD(S)
14.	Janata Dal (United)	JD(U)
15.	Jharkhand Mukti Morcha	JMM
16.	Kerala Congress	KEC
17.	Kerala Congress (M)	KEC(M)
18.	Lok Jan Shakti Party	LJSP
19.	Maharashtrawadi Gomantak	MAG
20.	Manipur People's Party	MPP
21.	Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	MDMK
22.	Mizo National Front	MNF

23.	Mizoram Peoples Conference	MPC
24.	Muslim League Kerala State Committee	MUL
25.	Nagaland Peoples Front	NPF
26.	National Peoples Party	NPP
27.	Pattali Makkal Katchi	PMK
28.	Pudhucherry Munnetra Congress	PMC
29.	Revolutionary Socialist Party	RSP
30.	Samajwadi Party	SP
31.	Save Goa Front	SGF
32.	Shiromani Akali Dal	SKD
33.	Shiv Sena	SHS
34.	Sikkim Democratic Front	SDF
35.	Telangana Rashtra Samithi	TRS
36.	Telugu Desam	TDP
37.	United Democratic Party	UDP
38.	Uttarakhand Kranti Dal	UKKD
39.	Zoram Nationalist Party	ZNP

GENERAL ELECTION TO LOK SABHA, 2009

Time available to National Parties on National Channel/Hook-Up of Doordarshan/All India Radio

S.No.	Name of National Party	Total Time allotted in minutes for		Number of Time Vouchers (5 minutes each) issued for	
		Broadcast	Telecast	Broadcast	Telecast
	BJP	140	140	28	28
	BSP	70	70	14	14
	CPI	50	50	10	10
	CPI(M)	70	70	14	14
	INC	160	160	32	32
	NCP	50	50	10	10
	RJD	55	55	11	11
	TOTAL	595	595	119	119

GENERAL ELECTION TO LOK SABHA, 2009

**Time available to National Parties on Regional Kendras
Kendras of Doordarshan/All India Radio**

S.No.	Name of National Party	Total Time allotted in minutes for		Number of Time Vouchers (5 minutes each) issued for	
		Broadcast	Telecast	Broadcast	Telecast
	BJP	215	215	43	43
	BSP	100	100	20	20
	CPI	75	75	15	15
	CPI(M)	105	105	21	21
	INC	240	240	48	48
	NCP	80	80	16	16
	RJD	85	85	17	17
	TOTAL	900	900	180	180

GENERAL ELECTION TO LOK SABHA, 2009					
GENERAL ELECTION TO THE STATE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLIES					
Time available to State Parties on Regional Kendras/State					
State Capital Kendras of DD/Air					
S.No.	Name of National Party	Total Time allotted in minutes for		Number of Time Vouchers (5 minutes each) issued for	
		Broadcast	Telecast	Broadcast	Telecast
1	AC	35	35	7	7
2	ADMK	75	75	15	15
3	AGP	45	45	9	9
4	AIFB	41	41	8	8
5	AITC	72	72	14	14
6	DMK	68	68	14	14
7	INLD	44	44	9	9
8	JD(S)	62	62	12	12
9	JD(U)	77	77	15	15
10	JKN	37	37	7	7
11	JKNPP	35	35	7	7
12	JKPDP	36	36	7	7
13	JMM	43	43	9	9
14	KEC	37	37	7	7
15	KEC(M)	36	36	7	7
16	MAG	35	35	7	7
17	MDMK	43	43	9	9
18	MNF	36	36	7	7
19	MPP	35	35	7	7
20	MUL	39	39	8	8
21	NPF	38	38	8	8
22	PMK	45	45	9	9
23	RSP	43	43	9	9
24	SAD	51	51	10	10
25	SDF	36	36	7	7
26	SHS	68	68	14	14
27	SP	113	113	23	23
28	TDP	90	90	18	18
29	UKKD	35	35	7	7
30	TRS	35	35	7	7
31	AUDF	35	35	7	7
32	LJSP	35	35	7	7
33	NPP	35	35	7	7
34	MPC	35	35	7	7
35	UDP	35	35	7	7

36	ZNP	35	35	7	7	
37	BJD	35	35	7	7	
38	PMC	35	35	7	7	
39	SGF	35	35	7	7	
	TOTAL	1800	1800	360	360	