

MAKING OUR ELECTIONS ECO FRIENDLY: GUIDELINES THEREON

1. A lot of campaign material including posters, cut outs, hoarding banners, etc.

is made of plastic. After the elections, the campaign materials, are discarded and become non-biodegradable waste. Such single-use plastic waste does not get collected and causes choking of drainage, land and water pollution, ingestion by stray animals, etc. leading to adverse impacts on human health and environment. Some of these plastics produces toxic emission on burning. Accordingly, this Commission reiterates:

- a. That all candidates/ political parties should take adequate steps and measures to not use plastic as campaign materials (posters, banners, etc.) during the election in the interest of human health and environment;
- b. The disposal of campaign materials should be done by the candidates/ political parties within three days after the poll day.
- c. Alternate options to use of plastic in campaign material like compostable plastic, natural fabrics, recycle paper material etc. needs to be promoted as a sustainable and environmentally sound management practice.

2. Uncontrolled use of loud speakers for election campaign from fixed rostrums to mounted loud speakers / fitted on vehicles causes serious 'noise pollution', thereby causing great disturbance to the peace and tranquility of the general public and the student community in particular.

The Commission is also aware that the use of loud speakers cannot be stopped altogether as it is one of the means of election propaganda and information to public. But at the same time, indiscriminate and unfettered use of loud speakers at odd hours and at odd places at very high volume cannot be allowed.

After considering all the aspects, the Commission reiterates:

- a. The use of loud speakers whether fitted on vehicles of any type what so ever or static position use for campaigning for electioneering purposes from the date of announcement of election and ending with 72 hours from the end of poll shall be permitted only between 8:00 AM to 9:00 PM.
- b. All loud speakers being used beyond the hours as prescribed above shall be confiscated with all its apparatus.
- c. All candidates/ political parties using loudspeakers on moving vehicles of any type shall intimate the registration number of the vehicle to the authorities granting permission to use of loudspeakers and such registration numbers of the vehicles shall be indicated on the permits granted by the authorities concerned.
- d. It shall be the responsibility of the authorities granting permits for the use of loudspeakers and the local police authorities to strictly enforce that no loudspeakers is used by any one in violation of the above direction.

- e. No loudspeakers fitted on vehicles of any kind or in any manner what so ever shall be permitted to be used during the period of 72 hours ending with the hours fixed for the close of poll.

The above direction of the Commission will check to a large extent noise pollution and disturbance of public peace and tranquility.