

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

NIRVACHAN SADAN, ASHOKA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

No. 437/WB-LA/2021

Dated : 8th April, 2021

NOTICE

Whereas, the General Elections to the Legislative Assembly of West Bengal have been announced by the Commission on 26th February, 2021, vide Press Note No. ECI/PN/16/2021 and the provisions of Model Code of Conduct have come into operation with the announcement of elections; and

2. Whereas, clause (2) and (3) of Part I 'General Conduct' of the Model Code of Conduct for the Guidance of Political parties and Candidates provides, *inter alia*, that

"(2) 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) There shall be no appeal to caste or communal feelings for securing votes. Mosques, Churches, Temples or other places of worship shall not be used as forum for election propaganda"; and

3. Whereas, the Commission has received a complaint from Ms. Kavita Krishnan, CPIML Central Committee in which it is alleged that on 29th March, 2021, Shri Suvendu Adhikari, a contesting candidate from 210-Nandigram AC of Bharatiya Janata Party, delivered a hate speech in Nandigram while addressing a public meeting, which has been widely reported in the media; and

4. Whereas, an authenticated transcript of the alleged speech has also been received from the Chief Electoral Officer, West Bengal. The relevant part of the speech is as under :

*"..... I am fond of singing and hearing Kirtans. Anyway, I have nothing new to tell you. **On the one hand, Begum is competing against us.** On the other hand, here is the son of your family, your younger brother, your friend, elder brother for my juniors. Whom would you like to accept, tell me? Election is knocking at the door. **You are not giving votes to Begum. If you vote for Begum there will be mini Pakistan. (Barely audible)...A Daud Ibrahim has come up in your locality....**We will note down*

everything. What is the Government doing? What is the use of it? Which Puja celebration is coming next? Ramnabami. **With which flower did Ramachandra worship Maa Durga? All of you should, therefore, vote for lotus.** You should press the button against number 1..... In the first phase of the election votes have been cast against the politics of appeasement. Do all of you understand the meaning of appeasement? As the election is going on we have to be cautious about our language. Do you understand what does appeasement mean? Do you understand the meaning of appeasement? Yes, you understand. Didn't they say after the Lok Sabha vote that they are ready to accept even the blows from those who were beneficial to them? This is appeasement. In the first phase votes were cast against appeasement. This time also votes will be cast against appeasement. The Panchayats of TMC involved in the Amphan relief scam are roaming around....."; and

5. Whereas, the above statement made by Shri Suwendu Adhikari on 29th March, 2021, has been examined in the Commission and the same has been found to be in violation of the clauses (2) and (3) of Part I of 'General Conduct of Model Code of Conduct for the guidance of political parties and candidates'.

6. Now, therefore, the Commission gives you an opportunity to explain your stand in making the above said statement, within 24 hours of receipt of this notice, failing which the Commission shall take a decision without further reference to you.

Encl : As above.

By Order,

(RAKESH KUMAR)
SECRETARY

To,

Shri Suwendu Adhikari,
Candidate of BJP from 210-Nandigram Assembly Constituency,
West Bengal.

SPEECH BY SUVENDU ADHIKARI AS TELECAST ON CN NEWS CHANNEL ON 29.3.21 FROM
11.25-11.29 AM

[Suvendu Adhikari sings and chants the name of Lord Krishna and Lord Rama.] I came here after visiting the temple of Radhamadhav. I put a garland on the Tulasi (a plant considered sacred for the Hindus). [He sings a Kirtan describing the glory of Tulasi]. I go to attend the Kirtans sung at the temple of ISCKON. I am fond of singing and hearing Kirtans. Anyway, I have nothing new to tell you. On the one hand, Begum is competing against us. On the other hand, here is the son of your family, your younger brother, your friend, elder brother for my juniors. Whom would you like to accept, tell me. Election is knocking at the door. You are not giving votes to Begum. If you vote for Begum there will be mini Pakistan....(barely audible)..A Daud Ibrahim has come up in your locality...We will note down everything. What is the Government doing? Just as Yogi Adityanath taught them a lesson we will also do so. If Uttar Pradesh could do it, West Bengal can do it also. In which serial number my name is placed on the voting machine? What is my symbol? What is the use of it? Which Puja celebration is coming next? Ramnabami. With which flower did Ramachandra worship Maa Durga? All of you should, therefore, vote for lotus. You should press the button against number 1. And we will build a "sonar Bangla" under the leadership and inspiration of Modiji. The founder of the Shaktikendra here, Tapas Bhai, Mondal President, Koushik, and many other leaders are present here. I am not taking everyone's name separately. I know that I will get the support of the people here. In the first phase of the election votes have been cast against the politics of appeasement. Do all of you understand the meaning of appeasement? As the election is going on we have to be cautious about our language. Do you understand what does appeasement mean? Do you understand the meaning of appeasement? Yes, you understand. Didn't they say after the Lok Sabha vote that they are ready to accept even the blows from those who were beneficial to them? This is appeasement. In the first phase votes were cast against appeasement. This time also votes will be cast against appeasement. The Panchayats of TMC involved in the Amphan relief scam are roaming around.

Padmini Chakraborty
Translator
2.4.21