

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No. 3/4/2019/SDR/Vol.IV

Dated: 16th September, 2020

To,

The Chief Electoral Officers of
all States and Union Territories.

Sub: Supreme Court's Judgment on the petition regarding requirement of publishing details regarding people with criminal antecedents contesting elections;

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to invite your attention to the Commission's letter No. 3/4/2017/SDR/Vol. II dated 10.10.2018, and letter dated 19.03.2019, issued in pursuance of the Judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP(C) No. 784 of 2015 (Lok Prahari Vs. UoI &Ors) and WP(C) NO. 536 of 2011 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. UoI and Anr.). In the said letters the Commission has directed that the candidates who have criminal cases against them, either pending cases or cases of conviction in the past, and the political parties that set up such candidates, shall publish declaration in newspapers and TV Channels in the manner prescribed in the letters referred to above.

2. Subsequently, in pursuance of the directions given by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its Order dated 13.02.2020 passed in Contempt Petition(C) No. 2192 of 2018 in WP(C) NO. 536 of 2011 and in addition to the directions in the Commission's above said two letters, the Commission vide letter No. 3/4/2020/SDR/Vol.III dated 6th March 2020, has also directed that all political parties, that set up candidates with criminal antecedents, either pending cases or cases of past conviction, shall scrupulously follow each of the above directions in

all future elections to the Houses of Parliament and State Legislatures. Information regarding individuals with criminal cases, who have been selected as candidates, along with the reasons for selection of such candidates, as also as to why other individuals without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates, shall be published by the political party in the newspapers, social media platform and website of the party within 48 hours of the selection of the candidate or not less than two weeks before the first date for filing of nominations, whichever is earlier.

3. The Commission has also considered the issues relating to the publicity by the uncontested returned candidates and directed that in view of above said directions of Hon'ble Supreme court such candidates must also publicize their criminal antecedents in the manner as prescribed for other contesting candidates..

4. As per the Commissions directions, the details regarding criminal cases are to be published on three occasions during the campaign period for the purposes of publishing of such details. Now, Commission has considered the matter and directed that the period specified will be decided with three blocks in following manner, so that electors have sufficient time to know about the background of such candidates:

- a. Within first 4 days of withdrawal.
- b. Between next 5th - 8th days.
- c. From 9th day till the last day of campaign (the second day prior to date of poll)


(Illustration: If the last date for withdrawal is 10th of the month and poll is on 24th of the Month, the first block for publishing of declaration shall be done between 11th and 14th of the Month, second and third blocks shall be between 15th and 18th and 19th and 21st of that Month, respectively.)

5. The other directions in this regard as given in the Commission's letters referred to in Para 1 & 2 above shall continue to be followed.
6. While filing the a/c of election expenses the details regarding publishing of instruction on criminal antecedents, if any, shall be provided in the prescribed format (Format C-4). In the case of election to Rajya Sabha or State legislative council, these details shall be submitted to the RO for the election.
7. It may again be stated here that **as far as political parties are concerned, they will be bound to disclose details regarding candidates selected by them in terms of the above mentioned Hon'ble Supreme Court's Order dated 13.02.2020, Communicated vide Commission's letter No. 3/4/2020/SDR/Vol.III dated 6th March, 2020, even if their candidature is rejected during scrutiny and/or withdraws his candidature** may be followed in this regard.
8. It may be reiterated that all the expenses incurred by the candidate and the political party in connection with the publication of the aforesaid criminal antecedent will be accounted for the purpose of election. In this regard, the Commission's letter No 3/4/3029/SDR/Vol.-I dated 19th March 2019 may be referred to.
9. In order to streamline the existing Formats as prescribed by the Commission and in compliance of the Order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, Formats C1, C2, and C3 have been modified by adding suitable guidelines (copies enclosed).
10. This letter may be circulated to all DEOs/ROs in the State/Union Territory for necessary action on their part. This shall also be circulated to all the political parties based in the State i.e. the State Units of the recognized parties and recognized State parties of other States and all registered un-recognized political parties with head quarters based in your State/Union Territory, with instruction to

take note of the above directions for strict compliance both by the parties and their candidates in all future elections.

11. Kindly acknowledge receipt and confirm action taken.

Yours faithfully,


(N.T. Bhutia)
Secretary

Format C-1

(for candidate to publish in Newspapers, TV)

Declaration about criminal cases

(As per the judgment dated 25th September, 2018, of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No. 536 of 2011 (Public Interest Foundation &Ors. Vs. Union of India &Anr.)

Name and address of candidate: _____

Name of political party: _____
(Independent candidates should write "Independent" here)

Name of Election : _____

*Name of Constituency: _____

I _____ (name of candidate), a candidate for the abovementioned election, declare for public information the following details about my criminal antecedents:

(A) Pending criminal cases				
Sl. No.	Name of Court	Case No. and dated	Status of case(s)	Section(s) of Acts concerned and brief description of offence(s)
(B) Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences				
Sl.no.	Name of Court & date(s) of order(s)	Description of offence(s) & punishment imposed	Maximum Imposed	Punishment

*In the case of election to Council of States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of constituency.

Note:-

- 1. The particulars regarding criminal cases pending against the candidate shall be in bold letters.**
- 2. The matter in newspapers shall be published in font size of at least 12.**
- 3. Details should be given separately for each case in separate rows.**
- 4. If a candidate is contesting an election on the ticket of a particular party, he/she is required to inform the party about the criminal cases pending against him/her.**
- 5. The candidate shall report about publishing of declaration regarding criminal cases immediately after such publication to the Returning Officer. In addition, he shall submit a report about publishing of the declaration regarding cases in Format C-4 alongwith the account of election expenses withing 30 days of declaration of result of election. (a) In case of elections to the Lok Sabha and the Legislative Assemblies, this shall be submitted to District Election Officer concerned, (b) In case of elections to the Rajya Sabha and the State Legislative Council, this shall be submitted to the Returning Officer concerned**

Format C-2

(For political party to publish in website, newspapers, TV)

Declaration about criminal antecedents of candidates set up by the party

(As per the judgment dated 25th September, 2018 of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No. 536 of 2011 (Public Interest Foundation &Ors. Vs. Union of India &Anr.)

Name of Political Party: _____

* Name of Election : _____

Name of State/ UT : _____

1.	2	3	4		5.		
Sl. No.	Name of constituency	Name of candidate	(A) Pending criminal cases		(B) Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences		
			Name of Court, case No. & status of the case(s)	Sections of the Acts concerned & brief description of offence(s)	Name of Court & date(s) of order(s)	Description of offence(s) & punishment imposed	Maximum Punishment Imposed.

*In the case of election to Council of States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of name of constituency.

Note:-

- 1. The particulars regarding criminal cases pending against the candidate shall be in bold letters.**
- 2. The matter in newspapers shall be published in font size of at least 12.**
- 3. The above information shall be published State wise for each State/UT.**
- 4. If a candidate is contesting an election on the ticket of a particular party, he/she is required to inform the party about the criminal cases pending against him/her.**
- 5. The political party shall be obligated to put up on its website the information pertaining to candidates having criminal antecedents.**
- 6. The Political Party shall submit a report about publishing of declaration regarding criminal cases in Format C5 to the Chief Electoral Officer of the State within 30 days of declaration of result of the election concerned.**

Format C-3

(Reminder to the Candidate)

Office of Returning Officer

Name of Constituency : _____

Name of State : _____

Name of Election : _____

It is informed that as per the judgment dated 25th September, 2018, of Hon'ble Supreme Court, in WP (Civil) No. 536 of 2011 (Public Interest Foundation &Ors. Vs. Union of India &Anr., and the directions in the Commission's letter No. 3/ER/2018/SDR, dated 10-10-2018, all candidates with criminal cases – either pending cases or cases of conviction in the past, are required to publish declaration regarding such criminal cases in newspapers and TV channels on three occasions during the period from the day following the last date for withdrawal of candidature and two days before the date of poll. Publishing declaration in TV channels should be completed before the period of 48 hours ending with the hour fixed for conclusion of poll.

Since you, Sh/Smt./Ms. _____ (mention the name of the candidate), a candidate nominated for the abovementioned election, have declared information about criminal cases in Items 5/6 of Form-26, you are required to publish information in newspapers having wide circulation in the constituency area and on TV channels on atleast three occasions each as mentioned above. The Format C-1 for publishing the information is enclosed herewith. **You shall report about publishing of declaration regarding criminal cases immediately after such publication to the Returning Officer. In addition, you shall submit a report about publishing of the declaration regarding cases in Format C-4 with copies of the newspapers publishing the information about**

criminal cases, alongwith the account of election expenses, within 30 days of declaration of result of election. (a) In case of elections to the Lok Sabha and the Legislative Assemblies, this shall be submitted to District Election Officer concerned, (b) In case of elections to the Rajya Sabha and the State Legislative Council, this shall be submitted to the Returning Officer concerned

Date:

Signature _____

Name of the RO/ARO _____

Signature of Candidate _____

Note: One copy of this should be given to candidate and one copy retained with RO.