BY FAX/CAMP BAG

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No.464/MT-HP/2009 Dated : 8th April, 2009

To

The Chief Secretary to the
Government of all States/Union Territories

The Chief Electoral Officers of
all States/ Union Territories

Subject :- Police briefing for Chief Minister and Home Minister- regarding

Sir,

Instances have come to the notice of the Commission that in some States there is a practice of routine daily briefing of the Chief Minister/Home Minister by the Director General of Police or Intelligence Wing of Police. A question has arisen whether such daily briefings in routine manner by the police officials to the Chief Minister should continue once the elections are announced.

2. The Commission has considered the matter. The Commission has reiterated that various directions/instructions issued by it relating to the code of conduct for officials are intended to ensure free and fair election and in no way should the same be taken as causing any obstruction to security arrangements of the State Government.

3. The Commission advises that security briefings of Chief Minister or Home Minister when considered essential, should be undertaken by the Home Secretary or the Chief Secretary who, in turn, should be briefed by the police agencies. In case where police agency's/official's presence is considered essential, the Chief Secretary/Home Secretary may require the police agency/official to be present.

4. The Commission has further directed that the Director General of Police, looking after election related work may be advised not to take press conference and if press briefing is considered necessary, it should be done by issuing press release, as far as possible.

5. Directions issued in this regard by you may be endorsed to the Commission.

Yours faithfully,

(STANDHOPE YUHLUNG)
SECRETARY