

# **ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA**

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001.

No.437/6/INST/2008-CC&BE

Dated : 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2009.

To

1. The Cabinet Secretary,  
Cabinet Secretariat,  
Rashtrabhati Bhawan,  
New Delhi.
2. The Chief Secretary to the Governments of  
all States / Union Territories.
3. The Chief Electoral Officers of  
all States / Union Territories.

Subject:- Display the photographs/calendars, etc. of national leaders and prominent personalities in the government offices/ premises – clarification regarding.

Sir,

I am directed to invite a reference to the Commission letter of even number dated 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2009, on the above subject, and to state that the underlying intention of the Commission's instruction was that the photographs and images of the political functionaries, who have deep influence on the minds of electors and many of whom are still active in public life and may even be contesting the current general elections, should not be displayed in the government buildings and premises as that would have the effect of disturbing the level playing field vis-à-vis the political functionaries of other parties and candidates.

In view of the inputs received, the Commission had issued the above instructions. In the meanwhile, certain doubts have been raised and clarification has been sought about the removal of the images of some national leaders, poets and prominent

historical personalities of the past. In this regard, the Commission would like to state that the abovementioned underlying purpose of the instruction needs to be fully appreciated while being acted upon. It is clarified that while the photographs of Prime Minister, Chief Ministers, Ministers and other political functionaries should not be displayed, this instruction, however, is not applicable with regard to the images of national leaders, poets, and prominent historical personalities of the past, and the President of India and the Governors. It is further clarified that in case of any doubt in this regard regarding removal of any photograph or images, the issue may be referred to the Chief Electoral Officer of the State/Union Territory concerned before taking action in the matter.

Yours faithfully,

(K. AJAY KUMAR)  
SECRETARY