

# ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No. 3/1/2012-SDR

Dated: 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2012

To,

The Chief Electoral officers of  
all States/ UTs  
(*except Jammu & Kashmir*)

Sub:- Misuse of religious institutions for political purposes –regarding.

Sir/Madam,

The existing provisions of the Model Code of Conduct for the guidance of political parties and candidates prohibit the use of places of worship as forum for election propaganda in any manner.

Further, Sections 3, 5 & 6 of The Religious Institutions (Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1988 (No. 41 of 1988) prohibit use of religious institutions or funds of religious institutions for the promotion or propagation of any political ideas or political activity or for benefit of any political party. Contravention of the provisions of any of these Sections is punishable by imprisonment upto 5 years and with fine.

The Commission desires that the above provisions of the existing law may be brought to the notice of all DEOs and ROs so as to ensure that any violation of these provisions during election is dealt with firmly and FIRs/ complaints are lodged under relevant provisions in the event of any offence under the said Sections of the Religious Institutions (Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1988.

A copy of the above mentioned Act (No. 41 of 1988) is enclosed herewith. DEOs, ROs and other election authorities should be instructed to ensure strict observance of the above provisions of law. This may also be circulated to all political parties based in your State/ UT, including State units of the political parties for their information.

Kindly acknowledge receipt.

Yours faithfully,

(Ashish Chakraborty)  
Secretary

Copy to: The President/General Secretary of all recognized National and State parties (As per list attached).