

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
Ministry of Defence,
New Delhi, the 13th Nov., 1979.

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The Chief Secretaries of all
State Governments & Union Territories.

Subject - USE OF DEFENCE LAND FOR PUBLIC MEETINGS
ORGANISED BY POLITICAL PARTIES.

I am directed to say that the general policy of the Government is that Defence Land should not be used for holding of public meetings by political parties. There should be no occasion to seek permission for utilizing the Defence Land, if other suitable grounds for holding public meetings are available, or if the land is situated inside Defence Establishment or is being utilized for defence purposes such as for training purposes. There may be cases when open land belonging to the Defence Department may be the only ground available to accommodate large gatherings. It has, therefore, been decided that in such cases the local Defence authorities may agree to the utilization of such lands for holding political meetings subject to the following conditions -

(a) It will be the responsibility of Deputy Commissioner to permit utilization of such lands for holding political meetings after consulting the local defence authorities and getting their agreement.

(b) Deputy Commissioner is to ensure that no discrimination is exercised between various political parties wanting to hold meetings on such lands.

(c) The local Defence authorities shall not deal direct with the political parties and when approached the parties should be advised to contact the Deputy Commissioner. They should also simultaneously inform the Deputy Commissioner whether the use of the land is agreed to or not having regard to the conditions stipulated.

(d) Local military authorities should not agree to permission of land grounds if other suitable ground for holding such political meetings is available at the station, or if the land is situated within a Defence Establishment or is being utilized for defence purposes such as for training purposes.

These instructions have been communicated to the various Army authorities. State Governments are requested to bring these instructions to the notice of all Deputy Commissioners and equivalent for guidance and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

WV/xx-x-x-
(Vijay Vyas)