

# ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi -110 001

No. 3/4/2019/SDR/Vol-I

Dated: 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2019

To,

The Chief Electoral Officers of  
All States and UTs

Subject: - FAQs on Criminal Antecedents, if any, of a candidate and its publicity in pursuance of Hon'ble Supreme Court Judgment dated 25/09/2018 in W.P.(C) No. 536 of 2011-regarding.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to invite your reference to the Commission's directions in letter of even No. dated 10/10/2018 issued in pursuance of Hon'ble Supreme Court Judgment dated 25/09/2018 in W.P.(C) No. 536 of 2011. In view of the various queries raised in this regard, a set of FAQs and clarifications in this regard is enclosed.

2. The FAQs may be circulated to all DEOs, Returning Officers, officers connected to elections and the Political Parties based in your State, for their information.

3. In the Commission's abovementioned letter, it has been inter alia, directed that after the election the candidates shall submit a report about publishing of declaration to the DEO and the Political parties to the CEO of the State. The Commission has provided formats C-4 and C-5 for this purpose. The formats are also enclosed. These shall also be circulated to the DEOs, ROs and all political parties based in the State.

Yours faithfully,

  
(N.T. Bhutia)  
Secretary

**Copy to:** All Recognized National and State Political Parties

**FAQs : Criminal Antecedents, if any, of a candidate and its publicity in pursuance of Hon'ble Supreme Court judgement dated 25-09-2018 in WP (Civil) No. 536 of 2011.**

**Q.1 Which newspapers are to be chosen for publicity by such candidates?**

**Ans.** As per direction in the judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the declaration is required to be published in newspapers with wide circulation in the area concerned. The CEO may get an indicative list of various newspapers which have wide circulation in the various district/different constituency areas in the State prepared by the State DIP. This indicative list should be shared with the political parties and the candidates.

**Q.2 When has it to be publicised?**

**Ans.** It has already been clearly mentioned in the Commission's letter dated 10-10-2018 that the publishing has to be during the period starting from the day following the last date for withdrawal of candidature and up to two days before the date of poll.

**Q.3 There is no column for signature. Who will authenticate it?**

**Ans.** The format contains column for mentioning the name and address of the candidate and the name of the political party on the top portion of the format. Thus, the name of the publisher will be clear from the declaration. There is no need for publishing the information with the signature of the publisher.

**Q.4 What if someone publishes false information about criminal cases of another candidate?**

**Ans.** There are already provisions to deal with any case of publication of false statement in relation to a candidate [Section 123 (4) of the RP Act, 51 and Section 171G of IPC].

**Q.5 Which TV channel the declaration has to be publicised?**

**Ans.** Please refer to the answer against Q.1 above. It has to be done in TV channels which are available/popular in the areas concerned.

**Q.6 What will be the font size and duration of publicity in TV?**

**Ans.** Font size should be the standard size used for displaying printed material on TV. Its duration may not be less than 7 seconds.

**Q.7 If a candidate does not have any criminal record, whether he/she is required to publicise?**

**Ans.** No. Only those candidates who have either pending criminal cases or who have been convicted in the past are required to publish the declaration.



**Q.8 Whether FIR cases have to be published by the concerned candidates and political parties?**

**Ans.** Yes. Under the heading 'Case No. and status of case', details regarding FIRs, mentioned in Item-5 of Form-26, are required to be mentioned.

**Q.9 If after filing nomination, status of criminal case changes, whether candidate can revise the details?**

**Ans.** It will be open to the candidate concerned to notify the revised status to the Returning Officer and to publish that revised status only. If it is NIL, the candidate is not required to publish it.

**Q. 10 Who will bear the expenses for publishing?**

**Ans.** Expenses, if any, will be borne by the candidate and the political parties in respective cases.

**Q. 11 Whether expenditure on this account will be accounted for?**

**Ans.** Yes. This being an expenditure in connection with the election, if **expense is incurred in this regard**, the same will be counted for the purposes of election.

**Q.12 Can RO act on any discrepancy in such details if pointed out?**

**Ans.** No. RO is not supposed to enquire into correctness of declarations published by candidate/political parties.

**Q.13 In what manner, such candidates will submit the information about publicity of cases to the DEO?**

**Ans.** Separate formats have been specified by the Commission for the candidates and the political parties to submit report about publishing of the declaration. These are Format-C-4 for candidates and Format-C-5 for political parties.

**Q.14 What happens if such candidates or such political parties do not publicise in the manner prescribed?**

**Ans.** Such failure may be a ground for post-election action like election petition or contempt of Hon'ble Supreme Court.

**Q.15 What are the Hours during which the information on TV channels is to be displayed?**

**Ans.** Information should be published on TV channels during the period between 8AM and 10PM.

**Q.16 What will be the language in which the information is to be published on TV channels?**

**Ans.** The information should be published in vernacular language or in English.

**Report by Candidate about publishing of declaration regarding criminal cases**

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 above mentioned election, certify that I have published the declaration about my criminal antecedents in newspapers and TV channels as per the directions of the Election Commission in pursuance of the judgment dated 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2018, of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No. 536 of 2011 (Public Interest Foundation &Ors. Vs. Union of India &Anr.). Details are as follows:

Sl. No.	Newspaper			Television			Mode of Payment (electronic/cheque/DD/Cash) (Pl. specify)
	Name of Newspaper	Date of publishing	Expenses that may have been incurred (in Rs.)	Name of channel	Date & time of insertion/telecast	Expenses that may have been incurred (in Rs.)	

Copies of newspapers in which declaration was published are enclosed.

Date:-

Name &amp; Signature of Candidate

Note: - (i) In case of elections to the Lok Sabha and the Legislative Assemblies, this shall be submitted alongwith the account of election expenses.

(ii) In case of elections to the Rajya Sabha and the State Legislative Council, this shall be submitted to the Returning Officer concerned within 30 days of declaration of result of election.



**Report by Political Party about publishing of declaration regarding criminal cases**

Name of political party: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Election : \_\_\_\_\_

It is certified that \_\_\_\_\_ (name of political party) has published the declaration about the candidates with criminal antecedents on the website of the party, in newspapers and TV channels as per the directions of the Election Commission in pursuance of the judgment dated 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2018, of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No. 536 of 2011 (Public Interest foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr.). Details are as follows:-

Sl. No	Website	Newspaper			Television			Mode of Payment (electronic/ cheque/ DD/Cash) (Pl. specify)
	Period during which displayed	Name(s) of Newspaper	Date(s) of publishing	Expenses incurred (in Rs.)	Name(s) of channel	Date(s) & time of insertion/ telecast	Expenses incurred (in Rs.)	

Copies of newspapers in which declaration was published are enclosed.

Date:-

Signature of office bearer .....

Name &amp; designation .....

Note:- This report shall be submitted to the Chief Electoral Officer of the State within 30 days of declaration of result of the election concerned.