

**OFFICE OF THE
CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER: MANIPUR**

PRESS RELEASE

CARRYING UNEXPLAINED CASH ABOVE RS 50,000 SEIZABLE: ADDL CEO

Imphal, 27th January, 2022 (PMC): Additional Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Shri Naorem Praveen Singh today stated that carrying any unexplained cash above Rs. 50,000/- will be subjected to seizure and the same can be released only after being proven that it has nothing to do with the elections. He made the statement during a press conference held today at the Office of the CEO, Manipur, Lamphelpat.

He briefed on the instruction of Election Commission of India, for information of the general public regarding carrying/transportation/storing in any premise of cash, and other valued items during the ongoing General Assembly Election to 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly, 2022.

Shri Praveen further explained that any cash exceeding Rs. 50,000/- found in a vehicle carrying a candidate, his agent or party workers or carrying posters or election materials or any drugs, liquor, arms or gift items which are valued at more than Rs.10,000/- and likely to be used for inducement of electors or any other illicit articles are found in a vehicle, shall be subject to seizure by Static Surveillance Teams (SST) /Enforcement Agencies. A star campaigner is allowed to carry cash up to Rs.1,00,000/-, exclusively for his/her personal use. A party functionary may carry a cash provided certificate from the treasurer of the party mentioning the amount and its end use is produced when sought for and SST/Enforcement Agencies shall retain a copy of the certificate, he added.

He continued that if cash of more than Rs. 10,00,000/- is found in a vehicle and there is no suspicion of commission of any crime or linkage to any candidate or agent or party functionary, then SST/Enforcement Agencies shall not seize the cash, but pass on the information to the Income Tax Authority, for necessary action under Income Tax Laws. A proper Panchnama/seizure document shall be issued for seizure of cash/items as per provisions of CrPC in prescribed format to the person(s) from whom such cash/items are seized. Procedure of appeal against seizure should be mentioned in the Panchnama/seizure document(s) and should also inform the concerned persons at the time of seizure of cash/items.

The Addl. CEO informed that any person giving or accepting any gratification in cash or kind during election process, with a view to inducing the person to exercise his electoral right is punishable with imprisonment up to one year or with fine or with both and also considered as corrupt practices. Further, any person who threatens any candidate or elector, or any other person, with injury of any kind, is punishable with imprisonment up to one year or with fine or both and also considered as corrupt practices.

As the political parties had started announcing the candidate list, he mentioned that as per Supreme Court directives, political parties and candidates should publish criminal antecedents in newspapers/TV channels specified for such publication on three occasions. He

further stated that adequate numbers of teams had been constituted for handling the cast of Postal Ballots by electors who are above 80 years of age and PwDs.

Moreover, five vans per Assembly Constituencies in the valley and five vehicles per Block in hill districts had been arranged for providing transportation facilities for PwDs and above 80 years voters who opt to cast their votes in their respective Polling Stations. He added that Rapid Response Teams (RRT) had been set up for all the 60 ACs with one Medical Officer and support staff. Air Ambulance service will also be utilized for emergency casualties for far flung areas.

Stating that webcasting provision will be arranged for more than 2,000 polling Stations for recording the whole voting process, he continued that offline recording mode will also be arranged for remote areas where web casting is not possible. Agency to carry out the same had also been identified. All Polling Stations will be sanitised one day before the poll date, he added.

Joint CEO, Shri Ramananda Nongmeikapam, OSD (Election) Shri N. Ganesh, State Nodal Officer (Transport Management) Dr. Mayengbam Veto Singh and Assistant State Nodal Officer (Expenditure Management) Shri Nganbam Rajesh were also present at the press conference.

NGM/LKP/BEN/CS (COORDINATOR, PMC)/CEO No. 31

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