

अमित खरे, भा.प्र.से.
सचिव
AMIT KHARE, IAS
Secretary



भारत सरकार
सूचना एवं प्रसारण मंत्रालय
शास्त्री भवन, नई दिल्ली-110001
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING
SHASTRI BHAWAN, NEW DELHI - 110001
April 10, 2019

D.O.No.N-34020/1/2019-BC-IV

I refer to letter No.491/MM/2019 dated 9th April, 2019 from the Election Commission of India (ECI) (copy enclosed) wherein the ECI has drawn reference to letter No.DG/DDN/ECI-2019 dated 5th April, 2019 from DG, Doordarshan News regarding details of air time coverage by DD News Channel of political parties after announcement of the Lok Sabha elections on 10th March, 2019. In the said letter the ECI has made certain observations with regard to the disproportionate air time coverage given to various political parties by the DD News Channel while also drawing attention to the ECI instructions dated 10.3.2019 (copy enclosed), reiterating the provisions of Model Code of Conduct (MCC) to be observed during the election period.

2. The Ministry of I&B has taken note of the contents of the aforementioned letter of ECI, particularly para 3 of the letter wherein the Election Commission has asked the Ministry to direct the DD News Channel to desist from extending any preferential or disproportionate airtime coverage in favour of any party and extend commensurate and balanced coverage of the activities of all recognized political parties. ECI has also directed all the officials/anchors/moderators of the channels present on TV shows/debates may also be advised not to exhibit any bias, prejudice or slant in their reporting.
3. In light of the above, I would request Prasar Bharati to scrupulously abide by the observations/directions contained in the above mentioned letter of ECI.
4. Further, Prasar Bharati is also requested to put in place a robust system for adherence to the Model Code of Conduct and aforementioned directions of ECI by the DD News Channel.
5. Although the observations and directions of ECI are with regard to the DD News, similar action may also be taken in respect of other Divisions of Prasar Bharati – Doordarshan, All India Radio, and All India Radio (News Services Division).
6. A compliance to the above may be sent to the Ministry at the earliest.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-
(Amit Khare)

Shri Shashi Shekhar Vempati,
Chief Executive Officer,
Prasar Bharati,
2nd Floor, Prasar Bharati House,
Copernicus Marg,
New Delhi – 110 001.



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Copy to : Chairman, Prasar Bharati for information.

Copy to : DG (Doordarshan News), DG (Doordarshan),

DG (All India Radio),

DG, AIR (News Services Division).

Copy also to:- Secretary, Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi – 110 001 w.r.t. their letter No.491/MM/2019 dt. 9th April, 2019.


10.4.2019
(Amit Khare)
Secretary (I&B)