

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1548**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, 28<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2021**

**Election Campaign COVID-19 pandemic period**

1548. SHRI THIRUMAAVALAVAN THOL:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Election Commission of India had suggested restriction of maximum number of persons to be allowed in the election campaign of any of the General or Bye-Elections during the COVID-19 pandemic period;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has assessed/ascertained the maximum number of persons who can be allowed in the campaign that may take place during any period of such pandemic;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE  
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

(a)& (b): The Election Commission of India has informed that it has issued broad guidelines for conduct of General Elections/Bye-Elections during COVID-19 on 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2020, wherein the following has been provided in respect of the number of persons allowed in election campaign-

- 1) Door to Door Campaign - Subject to any other restriction(s) including extant COVID-19 guidelines, a group of 5 (five) persons

including candidates, excluding security personnel, if any, is allowed to do door to door campaigning.

2) Road Shows - The convoy of vehicles should be broken after every 5 (five) vehicles. The interval between two sets of convoy of vehicles should be half an hour instead of gap of 100 meters.

3) Election Meetings - Public gatherings/rallies may be conducted subject to adherence to extant COVID-19 guidelines. District Election Officer should take following steps for this purpose:

(i) District Election Officer should, in advance, identify dedicated grounds for public gathering with clearly marked Entry/Exit points.

(ii) In all such identified grounds, the District Election Officer should, in advance, put markers to ensure social distancing norms by the attendees.

(iii) Nodal District Health Officer should be involved in the process to ensure that all COVID-19 related guidelines are adhered to by all concern in the district.

(iv) District Election Officer and District Superintendent of Police should ensure that the number of attendees does not exceed the limit prescribed by the State Disaster Management Authority for public gatherings.

(c) to (e): As per article 324 of the Constitution of India, the Election Commission of India has been vested with powers with respect to all matters connected with or incidental to the conduct of elections in the country.

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