

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI  
E.A. No. 32 OF 2019  
IN  
O.A No. 05 OF 2019 (SZ)**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**W. EDWIN WILLSON**

**...APPLICANT**

**VERSUS**

**UNION OF INDIA & ORS.**

**...RESPONDENTS**

**AND**

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*Divya*

**DIVYA SINHA  
SCIENTIST 'E'  
CENTRAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD  
PARIVESH BHAWAN, EAST ARJUN NAGAR,  
DELHI- 110032**

**PLACE: - DELHI  
DATED: - 10.10.2019**

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2019

**Status Report in compliance of Hon'ble NGT Order dated 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2019  
in the Matter of W. Edwin Willson vs UOI &Ors. (EA No. 32/2019 in OA no.  
05/2019, SZ)**

**Introduction:**

The issue is regarding prohibiting short life PVC and chlorinated plastics which includes Banners/Hoarding and the likes used for promotion and advertising. Hon'ble NGT vide order dated 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2019 in this matter directed CPCB to furnish a status report within one month.

**Present Status:-**

Vide order dated 01.03.2019, the Tribunal observed:

*“ In view of the above that while it may not be necessary for the Tribunal to go into the merits at this stage, the matter may first be considered in a joint meeting of representatives of Election Commission of India, MoEF&CC and CPCB at the earliest, preferably within one week in such manner as may be found viable. The CPCB will be the nodal agency for compliance and coordination.”*

In compliance of above Order, **a meeting was convened in Election Commission on 8th March,2019 and representatives of Election Commission of India, MoEF&CC and CPCB were present.** The minutes of meeting is annexed (**Annexure-I**). Compliance report was filed in Hon'ble NGT on 18<sup>th</sup> March,2019.

**Actions Taken:**

1. Election Commission of India has issued letters to all recognized National/State political Parties with copy to Chief Electoral Officers of all

States and Union Territories from 16<sup>th</sup> July,1999 to 26th February, 2019 regarding **“Pollution of environment on account of use of plastic sheets for making use of posters/banners during election campaign.”(Annexure-II)**

2. Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Changing has also written DO letter dated 17.01.2019 to Chief Secretaries (all States/UTs) with a copy to Chief Electoral Officers of all States/UTs with request to **use alternative options in election campaigning material such as compostable plastics, Natural Fabrics, recycling paper material etc.** (Copy of DO letter issued by Secretary, MoEF&CC is enclosed as **Annexure-III**).

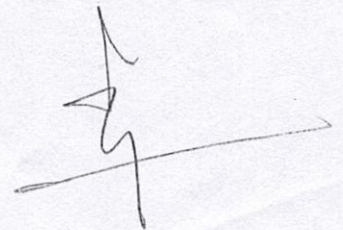
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**Minutes of Meeting Held on 08.03.2019 at Election Commission of India**

As per the direction of Hon'ble NGT in case no OA 05/2019 (Southern Zone) dated 01.03.2019 CPCB, a meeting was convened in the Election Commission on **8<sup>th</sup> March, 2019**. In the meeting, representatives of Election Commission (Shri Chandra Bhushan Kumar, Dy. Election Commissioner), CPCB (Dr. S.K.Nigam, Additional Director) and MoEF &CC (Shri. Manoj Gangeya, Director) were present.

The above-mentioned Order has been passed in reference of applicant's letter dated 29.01.2019 addressed to Secretary MoEF&CC seeking directions to all the States Government/UTs and Election Commission under Section 5 of the Environmental Protection Act, 1986 for imposing complete prohibition PVC hoarding- banners/ flexes by implementing and complying Environmental norms but no response is available. This letter has neither been received in the Election Commission nor been placed during the course of meeting. Therefore, the details of this application are not available for deliberations.

It was informed by the representative of Election Commission that time again, Commission has issued advisory to the recognized Political Parties, the Candidates, the Chief Electoral Officers and Chief Secretaries since 1999 regarding **"Avoiding use of plastic/polythene & similar non-biodegradable material for preparation of campaigning material such as posters hoarding Banners pamphlets etc. and use of environment friendly alternate material made from Compostable Products, Natural Fabrics, Recycling paper material etc..** Besides, Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Changing has also written DO letter dated 17.01.2019 to Chief Secretaries/ UTs with a copy to Chief Electoral Officers of all States/UTs with request to use alternative options in election campaigning material such as compostable products or materials (Certified by CPCB), Natural Fabrics, recycling paper material etc.



**ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA**  
NIRVACHAN SADAN, ASHOKA ROAD, NEW DELHI - 110001

No. 4/3/2019/SDR

Dated:- 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2019

To

All Recognized National/State Political Parties.

Subject:- Making our Elections Eco-friendly.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to invite your attention to the letters bearing No. 4/3/2006/JS-II dated 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2006, No. 4/3/2004/JS-II/Vol.I dated 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2004, No.4/3/2003/JS-II/Vol.I dated 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2003, No. 4/3/99/JS-II dated 16<sup>th</sup> July, 1999 and 4/3/2016/SDR dated 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 regarding use of environment friendly campaign material during elections.

In this connection, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has approached the Commission vide letter No. 12/79/2018-HSMD(Pt.) dated 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2019, (copy enclosed) with the request to impress upon all concerned to take up sustainable practices and try using alternate option to single-use plastic during elections. It, inter-alia, mentions:-

*"A lot of the campaigning material including posters, cut-outs, hoardings, banners, political advertisements, etc., is made of plastic. After the elections, the campaigning materials, are discarded and become waste. Such single-use plastic waste generated during campaigning does not get collected and causes choking of drainage and river systems, ingestion by stray animals, land and water pollution, open air burning, etc. leading to adverse impacts on human health and environment. Some of these plastics are Poly Vinyl Chloride (PVC) based, which produces toxic emissions on burning.*

*A number of alternate options to use of plastic in campaigning material are available such as compostable plastics. Natural fabrics, recycled paper material etc., which have a lesser environmental impact. Such materials need to be promoted as a sustainable and environmentally sound management practice. The upcoming General Elections present an excellent opportunity to introduce a behavioral change in election campaign and to promote sustainable practices."*

Your attention is also drawn to Para 3 of Commission's instructions No. 509/241/ECI/LET/FUNC/JUD/RCC/2011 dated 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2018, which specifies that

*"The Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, and other applicable laws in this regard are hereby adopted for disposal of the campaign material by the local municipal authority and the cost for the same shall be recovered from the candidates or political parties, as the case may be, in accordance with the polluter pays principle."*

Accordingly, the Commission reiterates that all political parties should take adequate steps and measures to not use single-use plastic as campaign materials (posters, banners etc.) during the elections in the interest of human health and environment.

Yours faithfully



(N.T. BHUTIA)  
SECRETARY

Encl:- As above.

All CEOs with instructions to inform all the DEOs/ROs to bring these instructions in the knowledge of all political parties and candidates for compliance.

## Don't use single-use plastic for LS poll campaign: Min

New Delhi: Ahead of the 2019 parliamentary elections, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has asked all States and Union Territories (UTs) not to use single-use plastic for poll preparations and to encourage use of alternative materials for election campaign.

The ministry also laid down standard guidelines to be adopted for minimising production and use of single-use plastic.

CK Mishra, Secretary, MoEFCC, has written to all the states and UTs reiterating that single-use plastics need to be completely phased out from the country by 2020 so they should switch to alternate options for election campaign.

"You are aware about India's commitment to phase out single-use plastic by 2020. The ill-impacts of plastic waste, which are not recyclable or bio-degradable, are well known. I had earlier written to you with a request to phase out single-use plastic in offices. I am again reiterating the request, particularly with reference to the upcoming general elections," Mishra said in his letter.

The secretary, in his letter to the chief secretaries and chief electoral officers of all the states and UTs on Monday, said all government offices must completely ban all types of plastic carry bags, thermocol disposable cutlery and discourage the use of artificial banners, flags, flowers, water bottles, plastic folders, etc. **PTI**

# ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashok Road, New Delhi-110 001

No.4/3/2016/SDR

Dated: 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2016

To,

All Recognised National and  
State Political Parties.

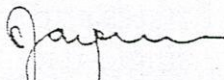
Subject: Pollution of environment on account of use of plastic sheets for making use of posters/banners during the election campaign.

Sir,

I am directed to invite your attention to the Commission's letter bearing No. 4/3/2006/JS-II dated 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2006, No. 4/3/2004/JS-II/Vol.I dated 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2004, No. 4/3/2003/JS-II/Vol.I dated 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2003 and No. 4/3/99/JS-II, dated 16<sup>th</sup> July, 1999 on the use of plastics during election campaign.

The Commission reiterates that all political parties should try to avoid the use of plastic/polythene and similar non-biodegradable materials for preparation of posters, banners etc. during election campaign in the interest of environment protection. Your cadres may be advised suitable

With regards,

  
(ANUJ JAIPURIAR)  
SECRETARY

Copy to: - Chief Electoral Officer of all States and Union Territories.

BY SPL MESSENGER  
BY SPEED POST

**ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA**  
NIRVACHAN SADAN, ASHOKA ROAD, NEW DELHI - 110 001.

No. 4/3/2006/JS-II } 2159 to 2193

Dated:- 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2006.

To

All Recognised National and  
State Political Parties.

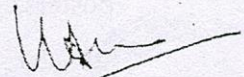
Subject:- Pollution of environment on account of use of plastic sheets for making  
use of posters/banners during the election campaign.

Sir,

I am directed to invite your attention to Commission's letter No. 4/3/2004/JS-II/Vol.I, dated 11-3-2004, No. 4/3/2003/JS-II/Vol.I dated 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2003 and letter No. 4/3/99/JS-II, dated 16.7.1999 on the use of plastics during election campaign.

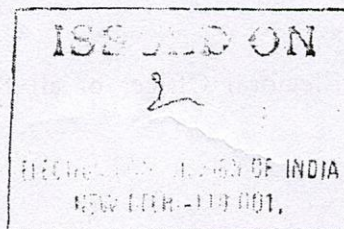
The Commission has desired that all political parties should try to avoid the use of plastic/polythene for preparation of posters, banners etc. during election campaign. Your cadres may be advised suitably.

Yours faithfully,



(K. AJAY KUMAR)  
SECRETARY

Copy to Chief Electoral Officer of all States and Union Territories.



9/11

By Camp Day 6

**ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA**  
NIRVACHAN SADAN, ASHOKA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

No. 4/3/2004/J.S.II/Vol.I

Dated: 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2004.

To

All Recognised National and  
State Political Parties.


**SUBJECT:** Pollution of environment on account of use of plastic sheets for making use of posters/banners during the election campaign.

Sir/Madam.

I am directed to invite your attention to Commission's letter No. 4/3/2003/J.S.II/Vol.I dated 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2003 and letter No. 4/3/99/J.S.II dated 16.7.1999 on the use of plastics during election campaign.

2. The Commission would like to reiterate that all political parties should try to avoid the use of plastic/polythene for preparation of posters, banners etc. during election campaign. Your cadres may be advised suitably.

Yours faithfully,

  
(K.F. WILFRED)  
SECRETARY

Copy to Chief Electoral Officer of all States and Union Territories.

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA  
NIRVACHAN SADAN, ASHOKA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110 001.

No.4/3/2003/J.S.II/Vol.I

Dated: 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2003

To

All Recognised National and  
State Political Parties.

SUBJECT: Pollution of environment on account of use of plastic sheets for making  
use of posters/banners during the election campaign.

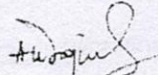
Sir,

I am directed to invite your attention to the Commission's letter No.  
4/3/99/J.S.II, dated 16<sup>th</sup> July, 1999 on the use of plastics during election campaign (copy  
enclosed).

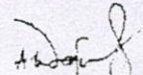
2. The Commission reiterates that all political parties should try to avoid the use of  
plastic/polythene for preparation of posters, banners etc. during election campaign. Your  
cooperation in the matter will be highly appreciated.

3. The receipt of the letter may kindly be acknowledged.

Yours faithfully,

  
(A.K.MAJUMDAR)  
SECRETARY

Copy forwarded to the Chief Electoral Officers of all States and Union  
Territories for information and necessary action.

  
(A.K.MAJUMDAR)  
SECRETARY

STANDARD DISTRIBUTION

MOST IMMEDIATE

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

NIRVACHAN SADAN,  
ASHOKA ROAD,  
NEW DELHI-110001.

No.43/99/J.S.II

Dated : 16th July, 1999.

To

All Recognised National and  
State political parties.

Subject:- Pollution of environment on account of use of plastic sheets for making  
posters/banners - regarding.

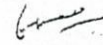
Sir,

I am directed to enclose herewith a copy of letter dated 7.5.1999 received  
from "World Wide Fund for Nature-India" which is self explanatory.

2. The Commission is concerned with the issues of environment hazards  
raised in the above mentioned letter. The Commission urges all political parties to avoid  
the use of plastic/polythene for preparation of posters, banners, etc.

3. The Commission expects that the issue will be viewed by your party with  
the seriousness it deserves and the party cadres at all levels will be appropriately advised  
by you.

Yours faithfully,



(K.J. RAO)  
SECRETARY



Chairman

J. F. Ribeiro, I. P. S. (Retd.)

World Wide Fund For Nature-India

विश्व प्रकृति निधि - भारत

Maharashtra State Office

7 May 1999

The Chief Election Commissioner  
Govt. of India  
Nirvachan Ayog  
New Delhi

Sir,

I would like to draw your attention to the use of plastic material in the forthcoming elections, which is likely to be very high, as various political parties try to clarify their stand and promote themselves to woo voters.

We, as a leading environmental group, are very much perturbed on the excessive and non-sensible use of plastic by political parties on various occasions in the recent past, which has not only caused choking of drainage systems in major towns and cities but as well created panic amongst rural public due to spread into their agricultural fields. Earlier posters and banners were made either from paper or cloth. However, nowadays there is a trend to use thin plastic which is non-biodegradable and a threat to the environment. In this connection I would request you to use your authority and issue necessary instructions to all the political parties to avoid plastics, so as not to cause damage to the "atmospheric environment" and natural resources.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

J. F. Ribeiro

Encl: Specimen of a publicity pamphlet made up of plastic

TRUSTEES

Mr. S. P. Godrej, President

Justice Laxmī Sath (Retd.) Vice-President

Dr. M. S. Swaminathan, President (Emeritus)

Dr. Dhruvayoti Ghosh

Dr. T. N. Khosla

Mr. A. K. Mahendra

Mr. S. S. Ramachandra Rao

Mr. M. A. Partha Sarathy

Ms. Bubi Ecar

Dr. Ajit Kumar Banerjee

Mr. Vikram Lal

National Insurance Building, 204, Dr. D. N. Road, Fort, Mumbai-400 001. ☎ Tel.: 207 8105, 207 5142, 207 1970 ☎ Fax: 2076037

Sl No. 4 (1)

By Speed Post/E-Mail

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# ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi - 110001.

No. 509/241/ECI/LET/FUNC/JUD/RCC/2011 | 700-705 Sp | Dated: 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2018

To,

705 speed post  
828-878

The Chief Electoral Officers and Chief Secretaries  
of all States and UTs

**Subject: Instructions on Prevention of Defacement of Open Spaces and Public Property - regarding.**

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to invite your attention to the Commission's Instructions issued in this regard as contained in Table 1 below as well as to the advisories issued *vide* Letter No. 4/3/99/JS-II dated 16.07.1999, Letter No. 4/3/2003/JS-II/Vol.I dated 01.05.2003, Letter No. 4/3/2004/JS-II/Vol.I dated 11.03.2004, Letter No. 4/3/2006/JS-II/2159-2193 dated 16.03.2006 and Letter No. 4/3/2016/SDR dated 05.04.2016 for avoiding the use of plastic/polythene and similar non - biodegradable materials for preparation of campaign material and the advisory issued *vide* Letter dated 06.04.2016 for the use of eco-friendly substances for preparing election campaign/publicity material. This is to state that the above mentioned advisories are hereby made mandatory in nature.

**Table 1: Commissions Instructions on the present subject matter**

S. No.	CIRCULAR NO.	DATE	SUBJECT
1.	Letter No. 3/9/2004/JS-II	24.08.2004	Restriction on the Printing of Pamphlets, Posters etc.
2.	Letter No. 3/9/2007/JS-II	16.10.2007	Restriction on the Printing of Pamphlets, Posters etc.
3.	Circular Letter No. 3/7/2008/JS - II	07.10.2008	Prevention of defacement of property and other campaign related items - revised instructions.
4.	Letter 3/7/2008/J.S. - II/SDR/2905-2939	10.11.2008	Instruction on defacement of property.

भारत निर्वाचन आयोग  
Election Commission of India  
New Delhi

Handwritten signature

5.	Instruction No. 437/6/INST/2012-CC&BE	18.01.2012	Prevention of defacement of property and other campaign related items – revised instructions.
6.	Circular No. 3/7/2014/SDR	11.03.2014	Prevention of defacement of property and other campaign related items – clarification regarding use of flags of political parties.
7.	Letter No. 4/LET/ECI/FUNC/JUD/S DR/2016	25.07.2016	Restriction on the printing of pamphlets, posters etc. – clarification.

2. It is further directed that the directions given by the Andhra Pradesh High Court in PIL No. 23 of 2014, *Trust for Social Justice rep. by its President B. Sree Latha V/s State of Andhra Pradesh and others*, vide Order dated 24.02.2014 shall be applicable throughout India. The relevant portion of the Order is being reproduced below for the sake of convenience:

"3. In view of the aforesaid revelation of fact, we direct the Commissioner, Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, to review the permissions already granted to persons for erecting banners and sign boards and ascertain whether such permissions are to be allowed to be continued as to its necessity vis--vis above G.O. as it is stated in the report, any such permissions shall not be for more than two years at a time.

5. [...] Therefore, we direct the Commissioner, Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, and the Commissioner of Police, Hyderabad, to remove all the cutouts, banners and sign boards which are erected without permission of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, on streets or at public places.

6. At the first instance, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation and the Police Commissioner, Hyderabad, shall issue notice to those persons identifiable who erected unauthorized cutouts, banners, hoardings, sign boards to remove them at their own costs within seven days, failing which they shall be removed and such cost of removal shall be recovered from those persons who installed and erected them as public debt and also by an order of rates and taxes leviable by the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation. The matter will appear one month hence to submit compliance report to this Court. Any person aggrieved by this, may approach this Court and the Court will examine their grievance. In the meantime, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation

# ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashok Road, New Delhi-110 001

No 3/8/2018/SDR/Vol.I

Dated: 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2018

To.

The Chief Electoral Officers  
Of all States & Union Territories

Subject: - Instructions on prevention of defacement of open spaces and public property - regarding.

Sir,


I am directed to invite your attention to the Commission's letter No. 509/241/ECI/LET/FUNC/JUD/RCC/2011 dated 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2018 (copy enclosed), on the subject cited. and to state that the instructions in item (6) under Para 2 of the said letter pertaining to time limit for use of loudspeakers in connection with election campaign has been modified in line with the instructions issued in pursuance of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's Order dated 18.07.2005, vide letter no. 3/8/2005/JS-II dated 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2005 (copy enclosed) specifying the prohibited period of use of loudspeakers for election campaign as between 10.00 PM and 6.00 AM.

Accordingly, Para 2(6) of the Commission's letter dated 20.04.2018 has been modified as under: -

*"6. During MCC period there shall be a prohibition on campaign related activity including door-to-door campaign, SMS, WhatsApp, Calls, usage of loud speakers etc. between **10.00PM to 6.00AM** as it is necessary to respect the privacy of the citizens and reduce disturbance to public life in general."*

This may be brought to the notice of the District Election Officers, Returning Officers and all other election related authorities for information and compliance. This may also be communicated to State units of national parties, recognised State Parties and registered un-recognised based in your State/UT for compliance.

Yours faithfully,

  
(N.T. Bhutia)  
SECRETARY

Copy to : PA to Dir (Law)

and the Police Commissioner, Hyderabad, shall see that no posters, banners and cutouts are erected in public streets or place or park without permission and ensure that this order is strictly followed and submit a progress report about the implementation of this order."

3. The Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, and other applicable laws in this regard are hereby adopted for disposal of the campaign material by the local municipal authority and the cost for the same shall be recovered from the candidates or political parties, as the case may be, in accordance with the polluter pays principle.
4. Certain areas must be demarcated by every Municipal Body/Panchayat and specifically designated for graffiti, wall writing, pasting of posters or display of cut-outs and such an area shall be allowed to be used in an equitable manner. Moreover, it should be the responsibility of the political parties or candidates to remove the campaign material after election.
5. Except the commercial places made available by the advertisers and the designated places as noted in the above paragraph, there should be no pasting or sticking of the campaign material on any open place or any public property.
6. During MCC period there shall be a prohibition on campaign related activity including door-to-door campaign, SMS, Whatsapp, Calls, usage of loud speakers etc. between 7 pm to 8 am as it is necessary to respect the privacy of the citizens and reduce disturbance to public life in general.
7. The above instructions may be brought to the notice of all Election related authorities, Municipal Bodies/Panchayats, Police Authorities as well as Political Parties.

Copy To: All Recognized National and State Political Parties.

Yours' Faithfully,

*V. K. Pandey*  
(VIJAY KUMAR PANDEY)  
DIRECTOR (LAW)

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA  
Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi- 110 001.

No. 3/8/2005/JS-II

Dated:- 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2005.

To

1. The Chief Secretaries of all States and Union Territories.
2. The Chief Electoral Officers of all States and Union Territories.

Subject:- Use of Loudspeakers for election campaigns - regarding.

Sir,

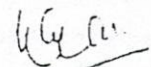
In pursuance of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's Orders dated 18-7-2005 in W.P. (C) No. 72 of 1998 (Forum, Prevention of Environment and Sound Pollution Vs. UOI & Anr.), I am directed to state that para 3(1) of the Commission's instructions circulated in its letter No. 3/8/2000/JS-II, dated 26<sup>th</sup> December, 2000, regarding use of loudspeakers for election campaign (reproduced at item No. 95 of the Compendium of Instructions, 2004 edition), shall be substituted as under:-

"3(i) A public address system or loudspeaker or any sound amplifier, whether fitted on vehicles of any kind whatsoever, or in static position, used for public meetings for electioneering purposes, shall not be used at night between 10.00 p.m. and 6.00 a.m."

2. The above changes may be brought to the notice of the District Election Officers, Returning Officers and all other election related authorities for information and compliance. All national State Parties and recognised state parties may be informed about the abovementioned directions for compliance. In the case of Bihar where general election to the Legislative Assembly is now in progress, these instructions should be brought to the notice of all candidates, as well.

3. Kindly acknowledge receipt of this letter.

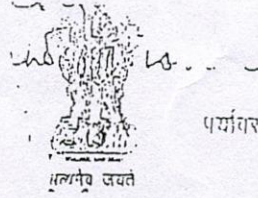
Yours faithfully,

  
(K.F. WILFRED)  
SECRETARY

Circulated to all Zonal Secretaries, Under Secretaries and Zonal Sections.



सी.के.मिश्रा  
C.K.Mishra



राष्ट्रीय  
भारत सरकार  
पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय  
SECRETARY  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

D.O. No.12/79/2018-HSMD(Pt.)

Dated: 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2019

You are aware about India's commitment to phase out single-use plastic by 2020. The ill impacts of plastic waste, which are not recyclable or bio-degradable, are well known. I had earlier written to you with a request to phase out single-use plastic in offices. I am again reiterating the request, particularly with reference to the upcoming General Elections.

A lot of the campaigning material including posters, cut-outs, hoardings, banners, political advertisements, etc., is made of plastic. After the elections, the campaigning materials, are discarded and become waste. Such single-use plastic waste generated during campaigning does not get collected and causes choking of drainage and river systems, ingestion by stray animals, land and water pollution, open air burning, etc. leading to adverse impacts on human health and environment. Some of these plastics are Poly Vinyl Chloride (PVC) based, which produces toxic emissions on burning.

A number of alternate options to use of plastic in campaigning material are available such as compostable plastics, natural fabrics, recycled paper material etc. which have a lesser environmental impact. Such materials need to be promoted as a sustainable and environmentally sound management practice. The upcoming General Elections present an excellent opportunity to introduce a behavioural change in election campaigning and to promote sustainable practices.

In this background, I would like to request you to impress upon all concerned to take up sustainable practices and try using alternate options to single-use plastic. This will go a long way in fulfilling India's commitment of phasing out single-use plastic as well as protecting human health and environment.

Yours sincerely,  
sd/-  
[C.K. Mishra]

Chief Secretaries (All States / UTs)

Copy to:

The Chief Electoral Officers of all States / UTs.... with a request to promote use of sustainable alternate materials during the campaign and also while using election material for election purposes.

[C.K. Mishra]

Item No. 12

Court No. 1

**BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI**

Execution Application No. 32/2019  
IN  
O. A. No. 05/2019 (SZ)

W. Edwin Willson

Applicant(s)

Versus

Union of India & Ors.

Respondent(s)

Date of hearing: 30.08.2019

**CORAM: HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE ADARSH KUMAR GOEL, CHAIRPERSON  
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE S.P. WANGDI, JUDICIAL MEMBER  
HON'BLE DR. NAGIN NANDA, EXPERT MEMBER**

For Applicant(s):

Mr. Sanjay Upadhyay, Mr. Salik Shafique, Mr. Saumitra Jaiswal, Advocates

**ORDER**

The issue is to consider the prayer to prohibit short life PVC and chlorinated plastics which includes Banners/Hoarding and the likes used for promotion and advertising. Vide order dated 01.03.2019, the Tribunal observed:

*"5. In view of the above that while it may not be necessary for the Tribunal to go into the merits at this stage, the matter may first be considered in a joint meeting of representatives of Election Commission of India, MoEF&CC and CPCB at the earliest, preferably within one week in such manner as may be found viable. The CPCB will be the nodal agency for compliance and coordination."*

Let the CPCB furnish a status report in the matter within one month by email at [judicial-ngt@gov.in](mailto:judicial-ngt@gov.in).

A copy of this order be sent to the CPCB by email.

The Applicant may furnish a set of papers to the CPCB and file affidavit of service within one week.

List for further consideration on 08.11.2019.

Adarsh Kumar Goel, CP

S.P. Wangdi, JM

Dr. Nagin Nanda, EM

August 30, 2019  
Execution Application No. 32/2019  
IN O. A. No. 05/2019 (SZ)  
AK

