

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No. ECI/PN/ 72 /2012/Media

Dated: 11th October 2012

PRESS NOTE

Subject: General Election to Legislative Assemblies of Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat - Allotment of Broadcast/Telecast time to Political Parties - regarding.

A copy of the Order No.437/TVs/2012/Media, dated 11th October 2012 issued by the Commission regarding allotment of Broadcast/Telecast time to political parties in the General Election to Legislative Assemblies of Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat 2012 is enclosed for the information of the general public.

**(Padma Angmo)
Deputy Secretary**

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ORDER

At the time of General Elections to the Lok Sabha in 1998, a new initiative for State funding of recognized political parties through free use of the State owned Television and Radio was introduced under directions of the Commission **vide** its Order, dated 16th January, 1998. The said scheme was subsequently extended in all the General Elections to the State Assemblies held after 1998 and General Elections to the Lok Sabha in 1999, 2004 and 2009.

With the amendments to the Representation of People Act, 1951 vide "Election and Other Related Laws (Amendment) Act, 2003" and the rules notified thereunder, equitable time sharing for campaigning by recognized political parties on electronic media now has statutory basis. In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (a) of the Explanation below section 39A of the Representation of People Act, 1951, the Central Government has notified all such broadcasting media which are owned or controlled or financed wholly or substantially by funds provided to them by the Central Government as the electronic media for the purposes of that section. Therefore, the Commission has decided to extend the said scheme of equitable time sharing on electronic media through Prasar Bharati Corporation to the ensuing General Election to the State Legislative Assemblies of Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat 2012 .

The facilities of use of broadcast time and telecast time will be available only to National Parties as there are no 'Recognized State Parties' in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh.

THE SALIENT FEATURES OF THE SCHEME ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. The facilities will be available from the Regional Kendra of the All India Radio and Doordarshan and in the headquarters of Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat and relayed by other stations within the respective States.
2. A base time of 45 minutes will be given to each National Party uniformly on the Regional Kendra of Doordarshan network and All India Radio network in the State of Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat.
3. The additional time to be allotted to the parties has been decided on the basis of the poll performance of the parties in the last assembly election from the State of Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat.
4. In a single session of broadcast, no party will be allocated more than 15 minutes.

5. The period of broadcast and telecast will be between the last date of filing the nominations and will end two days before the date of poll in the State of Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat. However, there will be no telecast or broadcast during the 48 hours preceding the close of polls as per specific provisions of the Representation of People Act, 1951.
6. The Prasar Bharati Corporation in consultation with the Commission will decide the actual date and time for broadcast and telecast. This will be subject to the broad technical constraints governing the actual time of transmission available with the Doordarshan and All India Radio.
7. The guidelines prescribed by the Commission for telecast and broadcast will be strictly followed. The parties will be required to submit transcripts and recording in advance. The parties can get this recorded at their own cost in studios, which meet the technical standards prescribed by the Prasar Bharati Corporation or at the Doordarshan/ All India Radio Kendras. They can, in the alternative, have these recorded in the studios of Doordarshan and All India Radio by advance requests. In such cases, the recordings may be done at the State Capital and at timings indicated by Doordarshan/All India Radio in advance.
8. In addition to the broadcast by parties, the Prasar Bharati Corporation will organise a maximum of two panel discussions and/or debates on the Kendra/Station of Doordarshan/All India Radio. Each eligible party can nominate one representative to such a programme.
9. The Election Commission of India will approve the names of coordinators for such panel discussions and debates in consultation with the Prasar Bharati Corporation.
10. Time Vouchers will be available in the denomination of 5 minutes with one voucher having time allotment from 1 to 4 minutes and the parties will be free to combine them suitably. The allotment of time to different political parties is given in a statement enclosed herewith.

By order,

**(Padma Angmo)
Deputy Secretary**

**GENERAL ELECTION TO
THE STATE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF HIMACHAL PRADESH 2012.**

Time available to National Parties on Regional Kendras/State Capital Kendras of Doordarshan/All India Radio

Name of State	Name of National/ State Party	Total time allotted in minutes for		No. of Time Vouchers issued for	
		<i>Broadcast</i>	<i>Telecast</i>	<i>Broadcast</i>	<i>Telecast</i>
Himachal Pradesh	BSP	67	67	13 (5 minutes each) + 1 (2 minutes)	13 (5 minutes each) + 1 (2 minutes)
	BJP	175	175	35 (5 minutes each)	35 (5 minutes each)
	CPI	46	46	9 (5 minutes each) + 1 (1 minute)	9 (5 minutes each) + 1 (1 minute)
	CPI (M)	47	47	9 (5 minutes each) + 1 (2 minutes)	9 (5 minutes each) + 1 (2 minutes)
	INC	161	161	32 (5 minutes each) + 1 (1 minute)	32 (5 minutes each) + 1 (1 minute)
	NCP	45	45	9 (5 minutes each)	9 (5 minutes each)
Total		541	541	541	541

**GENERAL ELECTION TO
THE STATE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF GUJARAT 2012.**

*Time available to National/State Parties on Regional Kendras/State Capital Kendras
of Doordarshan/All India Radio*

Name of State	Name of National/State Party	Total time allotted in minutes for		No. of Time Vouchers issued for	
		Broadcast	Telecast	Broadcast	Telecast
Gujarat	BSP	53	53	10 (5 minutes each) + 1 (3 minutes)	10 (5 minutes each) + 1 (3 minutes)
	BJP	191	191	38 (5 minutes each) + 1 (1 minute)	38 (5 minutes each) + 1 (1 minute)
	CPI	45	45	9 (5 minutes each)	9 (5 minutes each)
	CPI (M)	45	45	9 (5 minutes each)	9 (5 minutes each)
	INC	158	158	31 (5 minutes each) + 1 (3 minutes)	31 (5 minutes each) + 1 (3 minutes)
	NCP	48	48	9 (5 minutes each) + 1 (3 minutes)	9 (5 minutes each) + 1 (3 minutes)
Total		540	540	540	540

LIST OF POLITICAL PARTIES

Sl.No.	Abbreviation	Status	Name of Party
1	BSP	National Party	Bahujan Samaj Party
2	BJP	National Party	Bharatiya Janata Party
3	CPI	National Party	Communist Party of India
4	CPI (M)	National Party	Communist Party of India (Marxist)
5	INC	National Party	Indian National Congress
6	NCP	National Party	Nationalist Congress Party