



## OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER MIZORAM

### PRESS NOTE

**No. H.12014/2/2023-CEO/Loose : Dated Aizawl, the 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2024**

**Subj: *Election Commission of India Issues Advisory on functioning of FSs/SSTs***

An instance has come to the notice of the Commission that cash was seized from tourist by FSs(Flying Squads)/SSTs(Static Surveillance Teams) in the state of Tamil Nadu and issued the following advisory.

1. The Tourist visit places across places India and as in the instant case may need to carry a certain amount of cash for genuine travel and stay purposes. It is Natural that many a times they won't be carrying supporting documents but a simple enquiry would make it clear that they are genuine tourists and are not in anyway connected with the elections. Therefore, they shouldn't be subjected to unnecessary enquiries which may lead to harassment.
2. The Commission has taken serious note of the incident. Though, controlling menace of money power is of utmost concern for the Commission, yet, persons like tourist who carry genuine small cash for the need of travel, should not be harass in the name of checking on the ground that they lack supporting documents.
3. These cases are different from what the commission intends. As per the Commission's SOP dated 29<sup>th</sup> may 2015 [Annexure G7 of Compendium of Instructions on Election Expenditure Monitoring (January, 2024)] ₹ 50, 000/- limit is mentioned in context of candidate, agent, party worker and party material. The primary aim of the Commission's instructions in this regard is to prevent the possibility of misuse of unaccounted cash in the electoral process.
4. Every FS/SST is headed by Designated Magistrate who is a senior officer from the district. He is assisted by videographer and armed police personal. It is expected that checking is done with due diligence, politeness and with courtesy. Every

DEO/SP must regularly look into the functioning of FSs(Flying Squads)/SSTs(State Surveillance Team) from the point of view of reducing grievance caused to common mass and action should be taken against such officials from FSs/SSTs who are not following the SOP.

5. The Commission vide its letter number 76/ECI/SOP/EEM/EEPS/2023, dated 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023 has issued an instruction pertaining to formation of 'District Grievance Committee' to reduce inconvenience to the public and genuine persons and also for redressal of their grievances. The Commission has instructed DEOs to ensure that functioning of 'District Grievance Committee' should be given wide publicity, including telephone number of the Convener of the Committee. This Committee will meet once in 24 hours at a pre-declared place and time. The Chief Electoral Officers of State/UTs must ensure that the District Grievance Committees are functioning in proper way regularly without delay in taking decisions and keeping pending any case unnecessary. It is necessary wherever instances of such kind of misuse of power and harassment is found the District Grievance Committee deals with the same strictness.

**Sd/- Dr. H.LIANZELA**

Addl. Chief Electoral Officer,  
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&  
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Mizoram

**Memo No. H.12014/2/2023-CEO/Loose : Dated Aizawl, the 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2024**

Copy to:-

1. PS to Chief Electoral Officer, Mizoram
2. District Election Officer, Aizawl & Returning Officer
3. All Assistant Returning Officers
4. Director, I&PR Department for wide publicity.
5. Station Director, Akashvani/DDK Aizawl.
6. President, Mizoram Journalists' Association.
7. Proprietor, ZONET/LPS Cable TV.
8. All Political Parties.
9. Guard File.



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