

# ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi 110001

No.437/6/COMP/ECI/LET/FUNCT/MCC/2024

Dated: 16.04.2024

## ORDER

Whereas, the Election Commission of India vide its Press Note No. ECI/PN/23/2024, dated 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 has announced General Election to the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha and Sikkim and provisions of Model Code of Conduct for political parties and candidates have come into force from that very date; and

2. Whereas, Clause (2) of Part I 'General Conduct' of Model Code of Conduct for the Guidance of Political Parties and Candidates states that:

“Parties and Candidates shall refrain from criticism of all aspects of private life, not connected with the public activities of the leaders or workers of other parties..”

3. Whereas, Para 3.8.2(ii) of Manual on Model Code of Conduct, 2019 provides that: -

“(a) 3.8.2 (ii): Nobody should indulge in any activities or make any statements that would amount to attack on personal life of any person or statements that may be malicious or offending decency and morality.”

4. Whereas, the Commission's advisory issued to the political parties on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 regarding plummeting levels of political discourse, inter-alia provides that: -

“9. iii. No aspect of the private life, not connected with the public activities of the leaders or workers of other parties is to be criticized. Low level personal attacks to insult the rivals shall not be made.”

5. Whereas, the Commission's above advisory further states that:

“9. v. The political parties and candidates to refrain from any deeds/action/utterances that may be construed as being repugnant to the honour and dignity of women.”

6. Whereas, the Commission received a complaint dated 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2024 wherein it was alleged that Shri Randeep Singh Surjewala had made the following sexist, vulgar and unethical

public utterances against the dignity of BJP Member of Parliament, Smt. Hema Malini while campaigning in Haryana:

“MLA/MP क्यों बनाते हैं? ताकि वो हमारी आवाज़ उठा सकें, हमारी बात मनवायें, इसीलिए बनाते होंगे। कोई हेमा मालिनी तो है नहीं, जो चाटने के लिए बनाते हैं?”

7. Whereas, the Commission had issued a show cause Notice No. 437/6/COMP/ECI/LET/FUNCT/MCC/2024, dated 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2024 to Shri Randeep Singh Surjewala for violation of the aforesaid provisions of Model Code of Conduct for making the above-quoted statement; and


8. Whereas, a reply dated 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2024 has been received from Shri Randeep Singh Surjewala in response to the Commission's above said notice wherein he has inter alia, claimed that the video cited by the complainant allegedly containing aforesaid utterances was a doctored video; and

9. Whereas, the Commission has carefully gone through the contents and averments made in the aforesaid reply of Shri Randeep Singh Surjewala. The Commission is in receipt of the report of DEO Kaithal wherein it is stated that the aforesaid objectionable utterances were made during a speech given by Shri Randeep Singh Surjewala on 31-03-2024 at Faral village of Pundri assembly constituency in the Kaithal district and the entire speech was videographed by the video surveillance team deployed by DEO. To confirm the veracity of the allegation about the aforesaid remarks being made in the speech, the Commission also examined the video of the speech submitted by DEO-Kaithal and is convinced that he has made the said statement and thus violated the aforesaid provisions of Model Code of Conduct; and

10. Now, therefore, the Commission without prejudice to any Order/Notice issued or to be issued subsequently to him in the matter relating to MCC violations, hereby, strongly condemns the impugned statement made by him during election campaign held in Haryana and reprimands Shri Randeep Singh Surjewala for the above said misconduct. The Commission, under Article 324 of the Constitution of India and all other powers enabling in this behalf, bars him from holding any public meetings, public processions, public rallies, road

shows and interviews, public utterances in media (electronic, print, social media) etc. in connection with ongoing elections for **48 hours from 06:00 pm on 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2024 (Tuesday)**.

By Order,

  
**(Narendra N Butolia)**  
**Sr. Principal Secretary**

To,

Shri Randeep Singh Surjewala,  
Member of Parliament,  
General Secretary,  
Indian National Congress,  
24, Akbar Road, New Delhi