

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA
Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No. 437/TA-LA/1/2020/Communication

Dated: 9th October, 2020

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, 2009, 2014 and 2019.

With the amendments to the Representation of the 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 the 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 Legislative Assembly of Bihar -2020.

Besides, considering the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and enhanced relevance of non-contact based campaign, the Commission, in consultation with Prasar Bharti Corporation has decided to double the broadcast/telecast time allotted to each National Party and recognized State Party of Bihar State on Doordarshan and All India Radio during this General Election to the Legislative Assembly of Bihar, 2020.

The facilities of use of broadcast time and telecast time will be available only to 'National Parties' and 'Recognized State Parties' in respect of Bihar.

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 relayed by other stations within the Bihar.

Time allotted for Telecast/Broadcast:

2. A base time of 90 minutes will be given to each National Party and recognized State Party of Bihar uniformly on the Regional Kendras of Doordarshan network and All India Radio network in Bihar.
3. The additional time to be allotted to the party has been decided on the basis of the poll performance of the party in the last assembly election of Bihar, 2015.
4. In a single session of broadcast, no party will be allocated more than 30 minutes.

Date of Telecast/Broadcast:

5. The period of broadcast and telecast will be between the last date of filing the nominations and two days before the date of poll in Bihar.
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.

Submission of Transcripts in advance:

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 Kendra. 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 timings indicated by Doordarshan/All India Radio in advance.

Panel Discussions and Debate:

8. In addition to the broadcast by parties, the Prasar Bharati Corporation will organize a maximum of four 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.

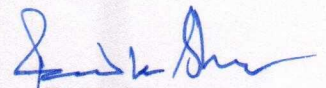
Guidelines for observance in Telecasts/Broadcasts:

10. The telecasts/broadcasts on Doordarshan/AIR will not permit:
- a) criticism of other countries;
 - b) attack on religions or communities;
 - c) anything obscene or defamatory;
 - d) incitement of violence;
 - e) anything amounting to contempt of court;
 - f) aspersion against the integrity of the President and Judiciary;
 - g) anything affecting the unity, sovereignty and integrity of the Nation;
 - h) any criticism by name of any person;

Time Vouchers for Parties: -

11. It 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,



(P. K. Sharma)
Secretary

**GENERAL ELECTION TO
THE STATE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF BIHAR 2020**

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

Name of State/UT	Name of National/State Party	Total time allotted in minutes for		No. of Time Vouchers issued for	
		Broadcast	Telecast	Broadcast	Telecast
Bihar	AITC	90	90	18 (5 minutes each)	18 (5 minutes each)
	BSP	119	119	23 (5 minutes each) +1 (4 minutes)	23 (5 minutes each) +1 (4 minutes)
	BJP	427	427	85 (5 minutes each) +1 (2 minutes)	85 (5 minutes each) +1 (2 minutes)
	CPI	109	109	21 (5 minutes each) +1 (4 minutes)	21 (5 minutes each) +1 (4 minutes)
	CPI (M)	98	98	19 (5 minutes each) +1 (3 minutes)	19 (5 minutes each) +1 (3 minutes)
	INC	182	182	36 (5 minutes each) + 1 (2 minutes)	36 (5 minutes each) + 1 (2 minutes)
	NCP	97	97	19 (5 minutes each) +1 (2 minutes)	19 (5 minutes each) +1 (2 minutes)
	NPP	90	90	18 (5 minutes each)	18 (5 minutes each)
	JDU	323	323	64 (5 minutes each) + 1 (3 minutes)	64 (5 minutes each) + 1 (3 minutes)
	LJSP	157	157	31 (5 minutes each) +1 (2 minutes)	31 (5 minutes each) +1 (2 minutes)
	RJD	343	343	68 (5 minutes each) +1 (3 minutes)	68 (5 minutes each) +1 (3 minutes)
	RLSP	125	125	25 (5 minutes each)	25 (5 minutes each)
Total		2160	2160	2160	2160

LIST OF POLITICAL PARTIES
(BIHAR)

Sl.No.	Abbreviation	Status	Name of Party
1	AITC	National Party	All India Trinamool Congress
2	BSP	National Party	Bahujan Samaj Party
3	BJP	National Party	Bharatiya Janata Party
4	CPI	National Party	Communist Party of India
5	CPI (M)	National Party	Communist Party of India (Marxist)
6	INC	National Party	Indian National Congress
7	NCP	National Party	Nationalist Congress Party
8	NPP	National Party	National People's Party
9	JD (U)	State Party	Janta Dal (United)
10	LJSP	State Party	Lok Jan Shakti Party
11	RJD	State Party	Rashtriya Janta Dal
12	RLSP	State Party	Rashtriya Lok Samta Party