MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT

15/March/2024

What is Model Code of Conduct (MCC)

- A set of norms evolved with the consensus of political parties and enforced by the Election Commission.
- It helps the Election Commission to conduct free and fair elections.
- Main objective of the Code is to provide a level playing field for all parties and contesting candidates during the elections.
- MCC comes into operation right from the time the election schedule is announced, remains in operation till completion of election process as per the election notification.

DO's of MCC

- Relief and rehabilitation measures to the people in areas affected by floods, drought, pestilence, and other natural calamities, can commence and continue.
- There shall be no bar to the release of payments for completed work(s) subject to the full satisfaction of the concerned officials.
- All Model Code of Conduct related directions shall be issued only by the Commission. The Cabinet Secretariat or any other government agency should reiterate and disseminate the directions of the Commission for compliance.
- Regular recruitment/appointment or promotion through the UPSC, State Public Service Commissions or the Staff Selection Commission or any other statutory authority can continue.

DO's of MCC

- All Government of India references to the Election Commission of India shall be made preferably through the Cabinet Secretariat.
- There shall be no bar to release of funds for the completed portion of any work subject to observance of laid down procedures and concurrence of finance department.
- Global tenders already floated, can be evaluated and finalized where any time limits are specified for such purpose.

DON'Ts of MCC

- Announcement of new projects or programmes /concessions or financial grants in any form or promises thereof or laying of foundation stones, etc.,
- New Tenders shall not be floated without prior approval of the Commission.
- Already floated tenders may be evaluated but not finalized without prior approval of the Commission.
- Fresh sanctions for governmental schemes are restricted.
- Review by political executive and processing of beneficiaryoriented schemes, even if ongoing.
- No fresh release of funds on welfare schemes and works should be made or contract for works awarded without prior permission of the Commission.

DON'Ts of MCC

- No advertisements shall be issued in electronic and print media highlighting the achievements of the Govt. at the cost of public exchequer.
- During MCC period photographs of Prime Minister, Ministers etc should not be displayed in government buildings/premises.
- No ad hoc appointments in government, public undertakings, etc. shall be made, which may have the effect of influencing the voters.
- Meetings by members of political parties inside the premises of the Government owned guest house etc. are not permitted.

Activities which require prior permission of the ECI

- New works and project cannot be taken up from discretionary funds of whatever nature.
- Recruitment through non-statutory bodies will require prior clearance of the Election Commission.
- Area of operation of any existing project/scheme/programme cannot be extended or expanded.
- No land allocation shall be made by the government to any entity, whether individual or an enterprise.
- Signing a MOU or an agreement where the government is a party will also require prior clearance by the Commission.
- Where works are to be undertaken or functions are to be held in fulfillment of international commitments, prior concurrence of the Commission shall be taken.

THANK YOU