



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR  
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ELECTION OFFICER RAJOURI  
(DEPUTY COMMISSIONER- RAJOURI)



“Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure”

Subject: **General Election to Lok Sabha-2024-Guidelines for Conduct of Govt. employees and use of social media -Reg.**

**CIRCULAR**

In view of ensuing General Election to Lok Sabha-2024, the following instructions are issued and reiterated for strict compliance and observance by all concerned:

1. Attention of all Govt. employees of District Rajouri is invited to the relevant provisions of Election Law and Conduct Rules relating to their participation in Politics and Elections, Section 134 A of the Representation of the People Act-1951 reads thus:

*“134A: Penalty for Government Servants for acting as Election Agent, Polling Agent or Counting Agent. If any person in the service of the Government acts as an election agent or a polling agent or a counting agent of a candidate at an election, he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months, or with fine, or with both”.*

It is thus clear that the Law provides for strict punishment of imprisonment for violation of provisions of above law

2. The J&K Employees (Conduct) Rules, 1971 also prohibit the Govt Servant from taking part in politics and elections.
  - a. Sub Rule (1) of Rule 14, provides that No Government employee shall take part in politics or anti-secular and communal activities, or subscribe in aid of any political party or any organization engaged in anti-secular or communal activities or assist in any way any political movement in the State or in any other part of India or relating to the affairs of the Union or the State.
  - b. Sub Rule (3) of Rule 14 provides that a government employee may, for the purpose of removing misapprehensions, correcting mis-statements, and refuting disloyal and seditious propaganda defend and explain to the public the policy of Government, but may not, save as provided in rules, make any communications to the Press in regard to the policy or acts of the Government without the sanction of the Government or such other authority as the Government may prescribe.
  - c. Sub Rule (4) of Rule 14 provides that in any action taken by him, under the provisions of sub-rule (3), the Government employee should, as far as possible, refrain from making any reference to the personalities of parties or individuals who may be in opposition to the Government.
  - d. Sub Rule (5) of Rule 14 provides that No Government employee shall canvass or otherwise interfere or use his influence in connection with, or take part in any election to a local body or to the Legislature or Parliament: ***Provided that a Government employee who is qualified to vote at such election may exercise his right to vote; but if he does so, he shall, give no indication of the manner in which he proposes to vote or has voted.***

3. **It has also been laid down by the Government that Govt. employee's attendance at the meeting organized by Political parties would always be contrary to the Conduct Rules unless certain conditions are fulfilled. The Govt. Servant should, therefore avoid giving room for any suspicious that they are favoring any party or any candidate. The Govt. Servants are not expected to take part in any election campaign or canvassing for any candidate.**

It has also been laid down that the conduct of Govt. Servants should be such and they should conduct themselves in such a manner to inspire confidence in the public in regard to their impartiality. The Govt. Servants should not be impartial but should also appear to be so in relation to elections.

4. An elaborate set of guidelines regarding use of social media by government employees have been notified for strict adherence/compliance vide Government Order No:1646-JK(GAD)of 2017 dated 26-12-2017 and circular No: 09-JK(GAD) or 2023 dated 24-03-2023 wherein inter-alia following instructions have been issued for Government employees:
  - a. Employees, directly or indirectly, shall not publish, post or release any information on social media that is considered confidential or that is not meant for public dissemination, nor shall they pass any official document or any part thereof to any Government employee or any such person to whom he is not authorized to communicate such documents or information.
  - b. No Government employee shall, through any post, tweet or otherwise, discuss or criticize on social media, any policy pursued or action taken by the Government, nor shall he/she, in any manner, participate in any such discussion or criticism on social media pages/communities/microblogs.
  - c. No Government employee shall post, tweet or share content that is political or anti-secular and communal in nature or subscribe to pages, communities or twitter handles and blogs of such nature.
  - d. No Government employee shall himself/herself or through any person dependent on him/her for maintenance, or under his care or control, undertake any such activity on social media which is, or tends directly or indirectly to be, subversive of the Government as by law established in the Country or in the Union territory.
  - e. A Government employee may, for the purpose of removing misapprehensions, correcting mis-statements, and refuting disloyal and seditious propaganda, defend and explain to the public the policy of Government in his posts and tweets on social media.
  - f. Government employees shall not post on social media, any such content or comments about co-workers or individuals, that are vulgar obscene, threatening, intimidating or that violate the conduct rules or employees.
  - g. No Government employee shall post grievances pertaining to their workplace on social media in the form of videos, posts, tweets or blogs or in any other form, but will follow the already established channels of

- complaint redressal existing in the departments
- h. Government employees shall not indulge in sharing/partaking in so-called giveaways and contests on social media platforms, which are actually scams in disguise, as they could unknowingly spread malware or trick people into giving away sensitive data by sharing it on their profiles.

It is however, clarified that the above guidelines are not intended to dissuade employees/Departments from using social media for positive and constructive purposes.

The provisions of relevant Act/Rules and guidelines given above shall be strictly followed by all the Govt. employees and any violation or disregard to the provisions and instructions by any Govt. employee would be considered as a serious act of indiscipline and penal action shall be taken against the guilty.

  
(Om Prakash Bhagat) JKAS  
District Election Officer  
(Deputy Commissioner)  
Rajouri

No. ENT/R/2023-24/ 3271-82.

Dated: - 17 /03/2024

Copy to the: -

1. Chief Electoral Officer, UT of Jammu and Kashmir, Jammu for kind information.
2. Returning Officer 3- Anantnag- Rajouri/ 5- Jammu PC for information and n/a
3. Additional District Development Commissioner, Rajouri.
4. Senior superintendent of Police Rajouri for favor of information.
5. Addl. Deputy Commissioners Rajouri/Budhal/Nowshera/Kalakote/ Sunderbani for information.
6. Asstt. Commissioner Revenue, Rajouri for information.
7. Sub Divisional Magistrate Thannamandi for information.
8. All District/ Sectoral Officers of district Rajouri for information and n/a.
9. All Election Nodal Officers of district Rajouri for information and n/a.
10. District Officer, Pollution Control Board, Rajouri.
11. District Information Officer, Rajouri for information with the directions to ensure wide publicity of this order in print, electronic and social media platforms.
12. District Informatics Officer, NIC, Rajouri, with the directions to upload the order on official website of the district.