

Anti Land-Grabbing Action Committee  
ಭೂಕಬಲಿಕೆ ವಿರೋಧಿ ಹೋರಾಟ ಸಮಿತಿ

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To,  
Dr. Nasim Zaidi  
Chief Election Commissioner,  
Election Commission of India,  
Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road,  
New Delhi- I10 001.

Sir,

**Subject: Conducting elections in a transparent manner  
without giving scope for irregularities.**

**The soul of our democracy lies in the elections. Democracy will become strong only when citizens express their opinion frankly and fearlessly.**

**The last Assembly and Council elections in Karnataka and the Lok Sabha elections have not been conducted in an impartial manner but with a lot of appeasements to the voters. During the recent Council elections in Karnataka, the State Commissioner of the Central Election Commission had stated that there is no limit for election expenses for Council**

**Elections which only encourages the irregularities in elections. Then, is it not possible to take action against those who appease the voters with gifts etc.? In that case, only people with money power and muscle power will get an edge and democracy will suffer.**

**The manner in which the recently concluded Taluk panchayat and Zilla Panchayat elections have taken place has given a hard blow to the decentralization of administration. The ugly side of the money power on the previous day of the elections have resulted in inappropriate candidates getting elected much against public opinion. In almost all elections, most of the contesting candidates are corrupt. They get elected and become eligible for all the special powers and privileges.**

**The Election commission, being an independent body should take strong action against irregularities. Otherwise, democracy is bound to collapse. The officers/officials working under the State governments are vested with the responsibility of election processes. The officers/officials working under the State governments will not be able to take strict action against the interests of the party in power in the States as they would have got favors from the same government with regard to their transfers, postings etc. It is a common practice that the officers themselves donate for election fund. One cannot expect the officers who give donations to election fund to a**

**candidate and a party, to act against the irregularities committed by the contesting candidates.**

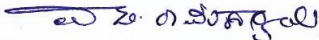
**Therefore, the Election Commission has a huge responsibility of putting in place systems to ensure that elections are conducted in a free, fair and impartial manner without giving room for appeasements and distribution of money to voters. The services of the government servants from other States should be utilized wherever possible. As the officers/officials from other State governments will not be working under the State Government where elections are held, they will be able to discharge their election duties impartially and can fearlessly act against the irregularities. If the money power in elections is not controlled, the corruption in election processes will in turn pave way for corruption in administration, development works and in providing services and facilities to the public.**

**The Election Commission has the onus to ensure that the candidates do not get votes by distributing money and appeasing the voters with gifts. It is indeed an unfortunate situation for our democracy that voters get carried away by money and gifts. Considering the fact that trust reposed in our democratic processes will deplete, the Election Commission, being an independent body should no longer be a mute spectator or a puppet of the government. We request that at least from now onwards, the Election Commission should**

**work towards ensuring that irregularities in elections will be dealt with strongly to uphold democracy.**

**Thanking You,**

**Yours Faithfully,**



**(A.T.Ramaswamy)**

**Convener**