

IMMEDIATE

No.25/4/73-Ests(A)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CABINET SECRETARIAT
Department of Personnel
and
Administrative Reforms

New Delhi, dated the 17th Feb., 1973.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Participation by Government servants in political activities - participation by Government servants in meetings/demonstrations organised by political parties.

The undersigned is directed to invite the attention of the Ministry of Finance etc. to rule 5(1) of the Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964 which inter alia provides that no Government servant shall be a member of, or be otherwise associated with any political party or any organisation which takes part in politics nor shall he take part in, subscribe in aid of, or assist in any other manner, any political movement or activity. Attention is also invited to the instructions contained in the Ministry of Home Affairs (now Department of Personnel & Administrative Reforms) O.M. No.6/6/69-Ests(B) dated 18th July, 1969 wherein it was emphasised that Government servants should not only maintain political neutrality but should also appear to do so and they should not participate in the activities of, or associate themselves with, any organisation in respect of which there is the slightest reason to think that the organisation has a political aspect.

2. A question has been raised as to whether participation by a Government servant in a public meeting or demonstration organised by a political party would amount to participation in a political movement or activity within the meaning of rule 5(1) of the Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964, mentioned above.

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3. This question has been considered, and it is felt that, in the light of the existing provisions of the Conduct Rules and the instructions already issued on the subject, taking any active part by a Government servant in a meeting or demonstration organised by a political party might give cause for an impression which may well be construed as assisting a political movement. For example, if a Government servant takes active or prominent part in organising or conducting such a meeting or demonstration or speaks himself therein, or attends regularly or even frequently any such meetings, etc., such action on his part is likely to create an impression that he is taking part in or assisting a political movement or activity. In order, therefore, to avoid any doubts about their political neutrality, it would be in the interest of the Government servants themselves not to participate in such meetings or demonstrations.

4. It is requested that the Ministry of Finance etc. may bring this clarification to the notice of all the employees working under them.

S. Krishnan
(S. KRISHNAN)

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

To

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No. 25/4/73-Ests. (A). Dated the 17th February, 1973.

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S. Krishnan
(S. KRISHNAN)

Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

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