

D.O.No.BR-140143/5492/09-Comp.

April 30, 2009

Dear

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has been constituted under the provision of Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005 for protection of child rights and other related matters. One of the functions assigned to the Commission under Section 13 of CPCR Act is to enquire into complaints in relation to deprivation and violation of child rights.

2. I wish to draw your attention to a news item appeared in the Hindu news paper dated 30th April 2009 which has a photograph showing children carrying electronic voting machines at Bhagalpur, Bihar (a copy of the news item attached for ready reference). I am sure you would agree that it is unacceptable as the existing Government instructions are quite clear that no government establishment or government servant shall employ child labour and it is a gross violation of the child rights.

3. Our glorious democratic process cannot be at the cost of children and their rights. I shall be grateful if necessary instructions are issued to all concerned immediately that the management of electoral process should be free of child labour.

With

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-
(Shantha Sinha)

Shri Navin B. Chawla,
Chief Election Commissioner,
Nirvachan Sadan,
Ashoka Road,
New Delhi-110001.

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3. Our glorious democratic process cannot be at the cost of children and their rights. I request you to investigate into the matter and send us an action taken report within 15 days from the receipt of this letter.

4. I shall be grateful if necessary instructions are issued to all concerned immediately that the management of electoral process should be free of child labour.

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Yours sincerely,

Sd/-
(Shantha Sinha)

Shri R.J. Mohan Pillai,
Chief Secretary,
Government of Bihar,
Secretariat,
Patna-800015.