

Date: December 9, 2025

To,

Sh. Gyanesh Kumar

Chief Election Commissioner

Election Commission of India, New Delhi

Email: cec@eci.gov.in

Subject: Urgent complaint against Panchayati Raj Minister Ojing Tasing for threatening voters with denial of government schemes based on electoral outcome — gross violation of MCC, RPA 1951, and constitutional norms

Respected Sir,

We, at Citizens for Justice and Peace (CJP), submit this complaint against Ojing Tasing, Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Minister, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, for making coercive, unconstitutional, and unlawful threats during a campaign rally in Lower Dibang Valley district, on December 3, 2025, during the ongoing panchayat election period.

Tasing unequivocally declared that panchayat segments where the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) loses will be denied government development schemes. In a publicly circulated video, he is heard saying:

“Government schemes will not go to those panchayat segments where the BJP is defeated... I do what I say.”

“I don’t believe in beating around the bush. The panchayat segments where the BJP candidates lose will not get any scheme. As the panchayati raj minister, I mean what I say.”

These statements—widely shared and verified in media reportage—constitute a direct threat, a misuse of official authority, and a criminally coercive attempt to influence voters using State power. This is among the most egregious forms of electoral misconduct, as it transforms welfare governance into a tool of political extortion.

The statements violate the Model Code of Conduct, Sections 123(2), 171C, and 171F of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, and fundamental constitutional guarantees of equality, dignity, and non-discrimination.

Nature of the Statement: A direct abuse of state power

Tasing's remarks:

1. Condition government welfare on partisan victory,
2. Threaten withholding development funds for not voting for a particular party,
3. Misuse the authority of his ministerial office to coerce voting behaviour, and
4. Transform public welfare schemes—funded by taxpayers—into partisan incentives.

This is a textbook case of undue influence, threat, and extortionate misuse of public office to dictate electoral behaviour. It weaponises essential governance functions against citizens.

By explicitly saying “*I do what I say... panchayat segments where BJP loses will not get schemes*”, he has used:

- His ministerial position,
- Access to public resources, and
- Government machinery

to intimidate voters into supporting the ruling party.

The report of *The Wire* dated December 6, 2025 has been downloaded by CJP and is marked and annexed hereto as Annexure A.

Link: <https://thewire.in/politics/aranachal-bjp-minister-says-panchayat-seats-where-bjp-loses-wont-get-govt-schemes>

Legal violations**Under Representation of the People Act, 1951**

1. Section 123(2): Undue Influence- Undue influence includes any direct or indirect interference with the free exercise of electoral rights. Threatening denial of welfare schemes unless voters choose the ruling party is undue influence in its purest form.

2. Section 123(1): Bribery- Offering schemes only upon voting for a particular party—and denying them if voters do not—is an act of conditional inducement, amounting to bribery.

3. Section 123(7): Abuse of official position- As a sitting minister, using the authority of office to manipulate voter choice is prohibited and voids the fairness of the electoral process.

Under the Model Code of Conduct (MCC)

The MCC explicitly prohibits:

- Use of official position to influence voters,
- Threats or intimidation,

- Promises or denial of development schemes,
- Misuse of government machinery, and
- Statements that undermine the free exercise of electoral rights.

Tasing's statements violate every one of these provisions.

The ECI has repeatedly held—most notably in cases involving Telangana (2018), Odisha (2019), and Karnataka (2023)—that any attempt to link welfare benefits with voting patterns is a severe and punishable breach.

Constitutional violations

Tasing's statements strike at the heart of India's constitutional democracy.

Article 14 — Equality before law: Government schemes must be distributed equally, without discrimination. Tasing threatens unequal treatment based on political choices.

Article 15 — Prohibition of discrimination: Denying government benefits because a constituency votes for another party is political discrimination, which courts have consistently held to be impermissible.

Article 21 — Dignity and autonomy: Threatening voters with deprivation of essential welfare violates their dignity and personal autonomy.

Article 38 & 39 — Directive Principles on equitable distribution: Public welfare cannot be weaponised as partisan punishment.

Preamble — Social, economic, and political justice: Tasing's statements replace justice with coercion, and governance with political revenge.

Such behaviour represents a constitutional subversion of the State's duty to uphold neutrality and fairness in elections.

Impact on the electoral and governance environment

The impact of Tasing's statements is profound:

1. They create a climate of fear, particularly among marginalised rural voters who rely heavily on government welfare.
2. They distort the electoral environment, making free choice impossible when governance itself becomes a threat.
3. They corrupt the neutrality of the State, signalling that public resources belong to the ruling party, not the people.
4. They delegitimise local government structures, as panchayats become subordinate not to law but to partisan coercion.

5. They undermine federal democratic norms, reducing elections to a transactional coercive bargain.

Such conduct requires urgent and exemplary action by the ECI to preserve democratic integrity.

Relief Sought

We request that the Election Commission of India:

1. Immediately issue a show-cause notice to Ojing Tasing.
2. Pass prohibitory orders debarring him from further campaigning.
3. Direct registration of an FIR for undue influence under RPA 1951 and criminal intimidation under the BNS.
4. Recommend his removal from ministerial office pending inquiry, as his statements constitute misuse of office.
5. Issue an advisory to all political parties reiterating that welfare schemes cannot be linked to voting behaviour.

Tasing's statement is not a mere slip or rhetorical flourish. It is a direct threat, a misuse of public office, and a dangerous subversion of constitutional democracy. It seeks to replace democratic choice with political coercion, and must be addressed with the full force of the Commission's authority.

Yours faithfully,

Nandan Maluste

President, Citizens for Justice and Peace

Teesta Setalvad

Secretary, Citizens for Justice and Peace (CJP)

Annexures

Annexure A: Report of *The Wire* dated December 6, 2025