



Star Campaigners of Political Parties

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A political party recently designated a prominent figure closely associated with a Chief Minister as a '[star campaigner](#)' for its electoral activities in a different state.

- **Section 77 of the [Representation of the People Act, 1951 \(RP Act\)](#)** provides for law relating to expenditure incurred by 'leaders of a political party'.
 - These 'leaders of a political party' are popularly known as '**star campaigners**'.
 - The only requirement is that these persons have to be members of the political party that appoints them.
- The RP Act provides that a recognised political party (national or State) can appoint a maximum of **40 star campaigners** while a registered unrecognised political party can appoint up to **20**.
 - The names of the star campaigners are to be communicated to the [Election Commission \(EC\)](#) and **Chief Electoral Officer (CEO)** of the States as applicable within 7 days from the date of notification of such election.
- The **expenses for travel by them during campaigning are not counted towards a candidate's election expenditure limit**.
 - However, this exemption applies only if the star campaigners engage in general campaigning for the party.
 - If they specifically campaign for candidates or share platforms with them, the expenses are attributed to the candidate's expenditure.

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