Research Paper   **Political Science**

Political Partiies in India: An over View

* Pradhanapp. A.Shankreppa

* Associate Professor, Dept of Political Science Karnataka Degree College, Bhankur - 585228 Dist: Gulbarga Karnataka State (India)

ABSTRACT

Some the political parties have their origin from before India's independence, for example, Indian National Congress, Forward Bloc, Alkali Dale, National Conference and some other parties. Some of these parties were either social or political organization before India's independence and they became political parties after India's independence. But many of the present parties were established after India's independence. Members, who split from larger parties, established some of these parties. For example in the 1960s, Look Dale was established by people who split from the Indian National Congress. Communist Party of India (Marxist)was established after the split in Communist Party of India and there are other such examples. The Indian political parties are categorized into two main types: national level parties and state level parties. A political party shall be treated as a recognized political party in a State, if and only if either the conditions specified in Clause (A) are, or the condition specified in Claus(B)is, fulfilled by that party and not otherwise, that is to say-(A) that such party has been engaged in political activity for a continuous period of five years; and has, at the last general election in that State to the House of the People, or, as the case may be, to the Legislative

Keywords :

INTRODUCTION

The Indian political parties are categorized into two main types: national level parties and state level parties. A political party shall be treated as a recognized political party in a State, if and only if either the conditions specified in Clause (A) are, or the condition specified in Clause (B) is, fulfilled by that party and not otherwise, that is to say-

(A) that such party
- has been engaged in political activity for a continuous period of five years; and
- has, at the last general election in that State to the House of the People, or, as the case may be, to the Legislative Assembly of the State, returned-

either (i) at least one member to the House of the People for every twenty-five members of that House or any fraction of that number from that State;

or (ii) at least one member to the Legislative Assembly of that State for every thirty members of that Assembly or any fraction of that number;

(B) that the total number of valid votes polled by all the contesting candidates set up by such party at the last general election in the State to the House of the People, or as the case may be, to the Legislative Assembly of the State, is not less than six per cent of the total number of valid votes polled by all the contesting candidates at such general election in the State.

The conditions in Clause (A) or Clause (B) above shall not be deemed to have been fulfilled by a political party, if a member of the House of the People or the Legislative Assembly of the State becomes a member of that political party after his election to that House or, as the case may be, that Assembly.

'State' includes the National Capital Territory of Delhi and the Union Territory of Pondicherry.

If a political party is treated as a recognized political party in four or more States, it shall be known as a `National Party' throughout the whole of India, but only so long as that political party continues to fulfill thereafter the conditions for recognition in four or more States on the results of any subsequent general election either to the House of the People or to the Legislative Assembly of any State.

If a political party is treated as a recognized political party in less than four States, it should be known as a `State Party' in the State or States in which it is so recognized, but only so long as that political party continues to fulfill thereafter the conditions for recognition on the results of any subsequent general election to the House of the People or, as the case may be, to the Legislative Assembly of the State, in the said State or States.

National Party
These are political parties which, participate in different elections all over India. For example, Indian National Congress, Bharatiya Janata Party, Bahujan Samaj Party, Samajwadi Party, Communist Party of India, Communist Party of InNational Party

S.N.	Symbol	Flag	Name	Acronym	Year[2]	Party leader
1.			Bahujan Samaj Party	BSP	1984	Mayawati

2.			Bharatiya Janata Party	BJP	1980	Gadkari, NitinNitin Gadkari
3.			Communist Party of India	CPI	1925[B]	Reddy, Suravaram SudhakarSuravaram Sudhakar Reddy
4.			Communist Party of India (Marxist)	CPI (M)	1964	Karat, PrakashPrakash Karat
5.			Indian National Congress	INC	1885	Gandhi, SoniaSonia Gandhi
6.						

Regional parties

The Election Commission might recognize a political party that participate, in different elections and receive certain amount of votes or seats in a state as a state party. Recognition as a state party gives the party the possibility to reserve a particular election symbol in the concerned state. After the issue of allocation of election symbol to BSP when it was recognized as a National Party (both the BSP and AGP were using Elephant as their election symbol, when BSP got the national recognition AGP objected to allocation of Elephant symbol to BSP which legally could use it in Assam; as a compromise BSP uses elephant all over India except in Assam), now Election commission does not allocate the symbol reserved for a state party to other parties recognized even in different state. A party might be recognized in more than one state. A party recognized in four states is automatically recognized as a national party. For example Shiva Sean participates only in Maharashtra, Taegu Demas in Andhra Pradesh, Alkali Dale in Punjab, Dravidic Moneta Kazagham (DMK) in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka State recently Karnataka janata Party (B.S.Yedurappa) there are other such state parties.

There are some small communist parties who participate only within one state. Some states have more than one state party. For example in Tamil Nadu another important state party is All India Anna Dravidic Moneta Kazagham (AIADMK). Because of these long party names many party names are abbreviated to their initials.

Some the political parties have their origin from before India's independence, for example, Indian National Congress, Forward Bloc, Alkali Dale, National Conference and some other parties. Some of these parties were either social or political organization before India's independence and they became political parties after India's independence. But many of the present parties were established after India's independence. Members, who split from larger parties, established some of these parties. For example in the 1960s, Look Dale was established by people who split from the Indian National Congress. Communist Party of India (Marxist) was established after the split in Communist Party of India and there are other such examples.

In Indian politics, there are political parties in which one person pulls all the strings. This feature existed even before India's independence, when Mahatma Gandhi was the father figure of the Indian National Congress until his death in 1948 even though he resigned from the Congress in 1933. Indira Gandhi for some period was in complete control of her party. Her party was also named, Congress (Indira). Shiv Sena is virtually owned by Bal Thakarey. Even when the Shiv Sena won the state elections in Maharashtra, Bal Thakarey handled the establishment of the state government but did not appoint himself as the Chief Minister .He appointed someone else to this post. Some of these parties, like the Shiv Sena in which one person pulls all the strings, have their stronghold in the public not because of their leader but because of party ideology. While other parties are completely dependable on the respect the leader of the party has in the public. Many of the large national parties have a pre-election agreement with smaller parties on joint candidates in some constituencies. This candidate belongs to one of the parties and the other party supports this candidate. This is done to prevent a possibility of parties, with common national agenda or common state agenda, nominate their own different candidates causing the splitting of the votes of their wing and so losing the constituency to the rival wing.

In Indian politics there are also many independent candidates. These candidates participate in election constituencies independently without the support of any party. In very few cases the larger parties also support independent candidates. Another feature unique to Indian politics is the high number of film actors who join the Indian politics. The Indian cinema produces films in different languages. The largest and the most popular film industry is the Hindi language film industry. Many national parties recruit Hindi movie actors in their parties. While many state parties with state chauvinism attract local film industry actors in their parties. These actors do not only appear along side with the party politicians to attract the mob towards the politicians gatherings, but they even participate as candidates in elections. Some of the state parties in south India were established by former movie actors.

Evolution of Indian polity

From the 7th to the 11th century, lack of interaction between Indians and their Iranian cousins and others in Central Asia, conquered and dominated by Arab-led Islamic forces, made India inward looking and fossilized its caste-based polity. Indian polity lost its mobility, resilience and the capacity to synthesize and assimilate new ideas. It went on the defensive against the conquering Islamic religion and Muslim polity. It

withdrew into its own shell and became frozen. And so it remained throughout the Muslim rule and British rule over Hindustan. The latter only perpetuated the static nature of Hindu polity, reducing Indian rulers as their aides, notwithstanding some social reform ripples. Indians never had a revolution, like the French, Americans, Russians or the Chinese. The Dharma (religion and duty), put one in one's place. A headman's son could aspire to be a headmen, an untouchable would remain an untouchable. The process of peaceful massive social engineering through competitive party politics and reservations in favor of the disadvantaged since independence has unleashed social, political and economic forces hitherto unseen in Indian history, in the process rearranging its polity. It shattered the Brahmin-imposed village autonomy based on a rigid hierarchy of priests, landowners, traders, artisans and untouchables, which had survived Muslim and British rule.

Soon, former bus conductors, petty smugglers, village pehelwans (wrestlers), and the progeny of peons could rise to the highest levels of government as chief ministers and cabinet ministers, as shown by the Lals of Haryana, the Yadavs of Uttar Pradesh and others. Imagine the creative and other energies released into the system, with the profession of politics providing an ambitious and determined person, but poor, un-educated, socially and economically disadvantaged, the opportunity to work his or her way up the system.

Unfortunately, in this free-for-all environment, many criminal elements, after first helping the politicians in vote "gathering and controlling", like an Arab's camel, have moved into the tent (of power). And the system's inbuilt resilience for corrective action now appears to have been lost. After watching the slide into dishonesty, chicanery and total disregard for all civic norms, first the Election Commission and then the Supreme Court took some measures to strengthen these independent institutions, but without great success so far.

The "Hindu" perception of Dharma and the rule of law is often quite ambivalent. Hindus believe that by propitiating local deities and gods (now the local politician, now the police sub-inspector), one can escape punishment. It is hoped that recommendations for an independent Vigilance Commissioner, a Central Bureau of Investigation and an Enforcement Directorate will be fully implemented, and that the implementation of the rule of law will be further strengthened, with the proper checks and balances of a truly democratic system. The institutions of the judiciary and the media, so easily tempted by wily politicians, have to be above suspicion and exercise their duties without fear and favor.

REFERENCES

1. ^ "Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Country Fact Sheet - India". 2007-05. http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/46d2ebbe24.html. Retrieved 2009-08-22. | 2. ^ http://eci.nic.in/eci_main/ElectoralLaws/OrdersNotifications/Notification_symbol_08032011.pdf | 3. ^ a b Election Commission of India | 4. ^ Cite error: Invalid <ref> tag; no text was provided for refs named Abhishek_Bajpai; see the help page. | 5. ^ "Notification of political parties and election symbols" (PDF). Election Commission of India. 2009-03-14. http://eci.nic.in/ElectoralLaws/OrdersNotifications/symbols170309.pdf. Retrieved 2009-08-04.[dead link] | 6. ^ Surjeet, Harkishan Singh (2005). "Spread of Communist Activities". History of the communist movement in India. 1. LeftWord Books. p. 54. ISBN 81-87496-49-5. | 7. ^ Bidwai, Praful. "Hindutva in dire straits". http://www.tni.org/detail_page.phtml?act_id=1087&username=guest@tni.org&password=9999&publish=Y&print_format=Y. |