

CHAPTER - III

ELECTION AND REPRESENTATION

ELECTION SYSTEM INDIA

FPTP is the electoral system of India. It is also known as:

1. Simple Majority System (SMS)
Or
2. Relative Majority System (RMS)
Or
3. Plural System (PS)

Through these system India conducted a three important election.

1. Panchayath election
2. Assembly election
3. Lok Sabha election

FPTP (First Past The Post System)

FPTP is a system of representation where a candidate who is elected in a majority is prepared as winner. It is called FPTP.

Features of Simple Majority System

- It is easily understandable for the common people.
- Voters can get choice based on their interest.
- Election based on constituency.
- To coordinate and mix different social beings.
- Voters can know about the qualities of candidates.
- To ensure the formation of sustainable government.

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

For ensuring sufficient representation to minority, there is a new electoral system formed in the name of proportional representation.

Features of Proportional Representation

- Country may be divided into a single constituency (Israel, Netherlands or Holland).
- Country may be divided into a multi member constituency (Argentina, Portugal).
- Vote for political parties.
- More than one representatives are elected from a constituency.
- Political parties gets seat in proportion of the percentage of vote that it gets.

TYPES OF PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

Classified into two:

1. Single Transferable Vote System (STVS)
2. List System

SINGLE TRANSFERABLE VOTE SYSTEM

- It is also known as Hare System, because it was introduced by Thomas Hare.
- Machinery of Representation, Election of Representative are the two famous books written by Thomas Hare that explain about STVS.

Features of STVS

- Multi-member constituency
- Transfer of votes
- One effective vote and marking of preference.
- Quota system – the number of vote necessary for the candidate to win

$$\text{Quota} = \left[\frac{\text{Total votes polled}}{\text{Number of seats} + 1} \right] + 1$$

How does proportional representation works in Rajya Sabha Election

- In the Rajya Sabha election STVS is followed.
- Each state have its own seat.
- Seat determined on the basis of population of state.
- Rajya Sabha MPs are elected by the members of legislative assembly (MLAs).
- Every voter marks his preference
- To get elected the candidate should get the minimum quota of votes.
- A candidate secured minimum quota of vote

$$\text{Quota} = \left[\frac{\text{Total votes polled}}{\text{Number of seats} + 1} \right] + 1$$

LIST SYSTEM

Each party prepared a list of candidate equal to the number of seat to be filled.

Why did India adopt the FPTP System

- It is a simple electoral system without any complication
- FPTP system is a best suitable for a large country like India.
- FPTP system provided the voters to choice their favourable candidate.
- FPTP system represent a particular constituency.
- This system coordinate the different section of society.
- FPTP provide a stable government.

The difference between FPTP and Proportional Representation

FPTP	Proportional Representation
▪ The state divided in to a several constituency	▪ The state divided into a single or multi member constituency
▪ Constituencies are small territorial area	▪ Constituencies are large territorial area
▪ One representative is elected from each constituency	▪ Elects more than one person from a constituency
▪ Vote for candidate	▪ Vote for political parties
▪ A party may get more seat which parties get more candidate	▪ Each party gets seats proportion to their voting strength
▪ The elected candidate shouldn't get majority vote	▪ The elected candidate should get majority vote
▪ This system prevailed in U.K. and India	▪ This system prevailed in Israel and Netherlands, Argentina, Portugal

Reservation of Constituencies

- There should be a reservation of seat for Socially, financially, educationally backward classes.
- Seat reserved for SC/ST
- The candidate must belong from reserve community.
- Reserved constituency determined under the combined action delimitation commission and election commission.

- In Kerala there are 140 seats in assembly, 14 seats reserved for SC and 2 seats for ST.
- In Lok Sabha there are 543 seats. Among this 79 seats reserved for SC and 41 seats for ST.

Women Representation

- Gender discrimination and lack of education is the reason of reservation.
- There is only 10% of women participation in the Lok Sabha and state assembly.
- 50% seats are reserved for women in the local bodies.

FREE AND FAIR ELECTION

- It is the features of democracy
- Universal adult franchise (Right to vote) is necessary.
- Inevitable process
- 5 year is the duration of election
- People's participation is essential

Universal Adult Franchise (Right to Vote)

- Right to vote is one of the most political right of a citizen.
- A-326 says that the election to Lok Sabha and legislative assembly should be based on adult franchise.
- Right to vote means those who have completed at the age of 18 there should be no discrimination on the ground of religion, caste, wealth, status, etc.
- Through the 61st constitutional amendment changed the voting age from 21 to 18. It was in 1989.

The following situation the citizen have no right to vote

- Absence of prescribed age limit

- Non-residing Indians
- Criminals (illegal activity), crime related to election, corruption.
- Mentally abnormal
- Those who are not entered in electoral role

RIGHT TO CONTEST IN ELECTION

Qualification for candidate:

- He should be an Indian citizen
- He should complete at the age of 25 for Lok sabha and Assembly.
- He or she is not gone under imprisonment for one or more years.

INDEPENDENT ELECTION COMMISSION

- For conducting a free and fair election the constitution of India formed election commission.
- A-324 deals with election commission of India.
- Election commission is an independent body
- Election commission consist of single and plural till 1989.
- From 1993 Election commission become plural.
- In plural commission there are 3 members:
 - One: Chief Election Commission (CEC)
 - Other 2 members are known as commissioners
- Election commissioner was appointed by Indian President
- Duration 65 years or 6 year service.
- If violation of constitution arise we can remove election commission before completing their duration.
- In each state they have their own state election commissioner.

FUNCTIONS OF ELECTION COMMISSION

To elect President, Vice President, parliament members (Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha) and members of state legislatures.

- To give approval to political party.
- The election commission provide symbols.
- To notify the date and schedule of election
- To supervise the machinery of election.
- To appoint the officials for conducting election
- To settled a dispute related to election
- Safe custody of EVM (Electronic Voting Machine)
- Counting the vote
- Announcement of final result.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The first woman election commissioner of India – V.S. Ramadevi- First election commissioner – Sukumar Sen |
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ELECTORAL REFORMS

There are many drawbacks in election process. So electoral reforms are essential. They are:

- Election must be changed from FPTP to proportional representation.
- Women should be given sufficient representation.
- Money and muscle power should be controlled.
- Caste and religious forces should not be allowed to influence election.
- Criminals should not be allowed to contest elections.
- Functioning of political parties should be regulated.

- Prevention of the misuse of governmental machinery.
- Photo identity card should be compulsory.

Proposals for Reforming the Election System

For preventing money power and muscle power	To control political parties
▪ The state should bear the election expenses ▪ There must be limit for election expenses. Those who spend beyond this limit should be disqualified ▪ The candidates and the parties should submit the audited account of election expenses. ▪ Criminals should not be made candidates ▪ All criminal activities like booth capturing should be suppressed	▪ Democratic secular values should be inculcated in political parties ▪ Registration must be made compulsory for political parties ▪ Officer – bearers of the parties should be elected periodically ▪ Accounts of each party should be published after proper auditing

For adequate representation of women	For reforming the election system
▪ Sufficient representation should be given to women in parliament and state legislature. ▪ Women should be made party office-bearers. ▪ Steps should be taken to change the mentality to alienate women from public activities ▪ Political parties should give priority to women candidate	▪ E.C. should be a multi-member body. The number of members of commission should be increased. ▪ Photo identity cards should be made compulsory. ▪ Voters list should be renewed and made fool proof ▪ Voting is to be made compulsory ▪ General seats should be rotated