

CHAPTER 43

ELECTORAL STATISTICS

India is a constitutional democracy with a parliamentary system of government, and at the heart of the system is a commitment to hold regular, free and fair elections. These elections determine the composition of the Government, the membership of the two houses of parliament, the state and union territory legislative assemblies, and the Presidency and vice-presidency. Elections are conducted according to the constitutional provisions, supplemented by laws made by Parliament. The major laws are Representation of the People Act, 1950, which mainly deals with the preparation and revision of electoral rolls, the Representation of the People Act, 1951 which deals, in detail, with all aspects of conduct of elections and post election disputes.

The Election Commission of India is an autonomous, quasi-judiciary constitutional body of India. Its mission is to conduct free and fair elections in India. It was established on 25th January, 1950 under Article 324 of the Constitution of India. Since establishment of Election Commission of India, free and fair elections have been held at regular intervals as per the principles enshrined in the Constitution, Electoral Laws and System. The Constitution of India has vested in the Election Commission of India the superintendence, direction and control of the entire process for conduct of elections to Parliament and Legislature of every State and to the offices of President and Vice-President of India. The Election Commission is headed by the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners. There was just one Chief Election Commissioner till October, 1989. In 1989, two Election Commissioners were appointed, but were removed again in January 1990. In 1991, however, the Parliament of India passed a law providing for the appointment of two Election Commissioners. This law was amended and renamed in 1993 as the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Conditions of Service) Amendment Act 1993. The commission presently consists of a Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners, appointed by the president. The Chief Election Commissioner may be removed from his office in like manner and on the like grounds as a judge of the Supreme Court. Other Election Commissioner may be removed by the President on the recommendation of the Chief Election Commissioner.

The Election Commission enjoys complete autonomy and is insulated from any kind of executive interference. The body also functions as a quasi-judiciary body in matters of electoral disputes and other matters involving the conduct of elections. The decisions of the body are liable for independent judiciary reviews by courts acting on electoral petitions. The Election Commission is responsible for planning and executing a whole amount of complex operations that go into the conduct of elections. During the elections, the entire Central (Federal) and State government machinery including para-military forces and the Police is deemed to be on deputation to the Election Commission which takes effective control of personnel, movable and immovable Government Properties it deems necessary for successful completion of the electoral process.

Lok Sabha (House of People):

Lok Sabha is composed of representative of the people chosen by direct election on the basis of adult suffrage. The maximum strength of the House envisaged by the Constitution is 552, upto 530 members to represent the States, up to 20 members to represent the Union Territories and not more than two members of the Anglo-Indian Community to be nominated by the President, if, in his opinion, that community is not adequately represented in the House. The total elective membership is distributed among the States in such a way that the ratio between the number of seats allotted to each State and the population of the State is, so far as practicable, the same for all States. The Lok Sabha at present consists of 545 members including the Speaker and two nominated members. Lok Sabha elects one of its own members as its Presiding Officer and he is called the Speaker. He is assisted by the Deputy Speaker who is also elected by Lok Sabha.

The conduct of business in Lok Sabha is the responsibility of the Speaker. Lok Sabha, unless sooner dissolved, continues for five years from the date appointed for its first meeting and the expiration of the period of five years operates as dissolution of the House. However, while a Proclamation of Emergency is in operation, this period may be extended by Parliament by law for a period not exceeding one year at a time and not extending, in any case, beyond a period of six months after the proclamation has ceased to operate. Membership of the Lok Sabha requires that the person must be a citizen of India, aged 25 or over, mentally sound, should not be bankrupt and has no criminal procedures against him/her. For reserved seats one should be member of the scheduled castes and/or tribes.

The strength of the Lok Sabha and allocation of seats among the States and Union Territories has been mentioned in First Schedule of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 amended from time to time and the special Acts/Rules enacted in respect of the particular State and Union Territories thereafter. The maximum number of 80 seats of Lok Sabha has been allocated to Uttar Pradesh followed by Maharashtra (48), Andhra Pradesh (42), West Bengal (42), Bihar (40), Tamil Nadu (39), Madhya Pradesh (29), Karnataka (28), Gujarat (26), Rajasthan (25), Orissa (21), Kerala (20), Jharkhand (14), Assam (14), Punjab (13), Chhattisgarh (11) and Haryana (10). Delhi and Jammu & Kashmir have been allotted 7 and 6 seats respectively. Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh have been allotted 5 and 4 seats respectively. Each of the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura has allocated two seats. Each of the States/Union Territories of Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Lakshadweep and Puducherry has been allotted one seat.

The Constitution of India came into force on January 26, 1950. The first general elections under the new Constitution were held during the year 1951-52 and the first elected Parliament came into being in April, 1952, the Second Lok Sabha in April, 1957, the Third Lok Sabha in April, 1962, the Fourth Lok Sabha in March, 1967, the Fifth Lok Sabha in March, 1971, the Sixth Lok Sabha in March, 1977, the Seventh Lok Sabha in January, 1980, the Eighth Lok Sabha in December, 1984, the Ninth Lok Sabha in December, 1989, the Tenth Lok Sabha in June, 1991, the Eleventh Lok Sabha in May, 1996, the Twelfth Lok Sabha in March, 1998, the Thirteenth Lok Sabha in October,

1999, the Fourteenth Lok Sabha in May, 2004 and the Fifteenth Lok Sabha in May, 2009.

Rajya Sabha (Council of States):

Article 80 of the Constitution lays down the maximum strength of Rajya Sabha as 250, out of which 12 members are nominated by the President and 238 are representatives of the States and of the two Union Territories. The present strength of Rajya Sabha, however, is 245, out of which 233 are representatives of the States and Union territories of Delhi and Puducherry and 12 are nominated by the President. The members nominated by the President are persons having special knowledge or practical experience in respect of such matters as literature, science, art and social service. The Fourth Schedule to the Constitution provides for allocation of seats to the States and Union Territories in Rajya Sabha.

The allocation of seats is made on the basis of the population of each State. Consequent on the reorganization of States and formation of new States, the number of elected seats in the Rajya Sabha allotted to States and Union Territories has changed from time to time since 1952. The maximum number of 31 seats of Rajya Sabha has been allocated to Uttar Pradesh followed by Maharashtra (19), Andhra Pradesh (18), Tamil Nadu (18), West Bengal (16), Bihar (16), Karnataka (12), Madhya Pradesh (11), Gujarat (11), Rajasthan (10), Orissa (10), Kerala (9), Assam (7), Punjab (7), Jharkhand (6), Chhattisgarh (5), Haryana (5) and Jammu & Kashmir (4). Each of the States of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, and Union Territory of Delhi has been allocated 3 seats. Each of the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura, and Union Territory of Puducherry has allocated one seat. The Presiding Officers of Rajya Sabha have the responsibility to conduct the proceedings of the House. The Vice-President of India is ex-officio Chairman of Rajya Sabha. Rajya Sabha also chooses from amongst its members, a Deputy Chairman. There is also a Panel of Vice-Chairmen in Rajya Sabha, the members of which are nominated by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha. In the absence of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, a member from the Panel of Vice-Chairmen presides over the proceedings of the House. Apart from the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman, Leader of the House is another functionary who plays important role in the efficient and smooth conduct of the business in the House. The Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha is normally the Prime Minister, if he/she is its member or any Minister who is a member of the House and is nominated by him/her to so function.

Vidhan Sabha (State Legislative Assembly):

The Vidhan Sabha also known as Legislative Assemblies are the lower houses of state legislature in the States of India. Members of a Vidhan Sabha are direct representatives of the people of the particular State as they are directly elected by an electorate consisting of all adult citizens of that state. Its maximum size as outlined in the Constitution of India is not more than 500 members and not less than 60. However, the size of the Vidhan Sabha can be less than 60 members through an Act of Parliament, such is the case in the states of Goa, Sikkim and Mizoram.

Vidhan Parishad (State Legislative Council):

The Vidhan Parishad (Legislative Council) forms a part of the state legislatures of India. In six of India's 28 States (Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Jammu and Kashmir and Andhra Pradesh), the Legislative Council serves as the indirectly- elected upper house of a bicameral legislature. The strengths of the Legislative Assemblies of the States and Union Territories has been mentioned in Third Schedule of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 amended from time to time and the special Acts/Rules enacted in respect of the particular State and Union Territories thereafter.

Highlights:

- The number of electors increased from 619.56 million in 1999 to 716.99 million in 2009, whereas, number of votes polled during Lok Sabha election increased from 371.67 million to 417.24 million and number of valid votes polled increased from 364.44 million to 417.04 million during the same period. However, the percentage of votes polled to the total number of electors declined from 59.99% in 1999 to 58.19% in 2009.
- Among the major States, percentage of votes polled to number of elect rolls is maximum in Andhra Pradesh(72.6) ,followed by Punjab(69.8 %) and Haryana(67.5%). Other States, where the percentage of votes polled to number of elect rolls is less than 50% are Bihar(44.5%), Gujarat(47.9%) and Uttar Pradesh (47.8%). In Jammu and Kashmir percentage of votes polled to number of elect rolls is minimum in Jammu and Kashmir(39.7%)
- Out of 543 total constituencies of the Lok Sabha, the number of elected women in Lok Sabha increased from 49 in 1999 to 59 in 2009. While the share of women electors in total electors remained unaltered in 1999 and 2009, the women voters increased from 44.3% to 45.8% depicting increasing tendency to participate in election by the women. The percentage of women voters over women electors also increased from 55.6% to 55.8% during the said period.
- In 2009, number of elected women over total seats is maximum in Punjab(30.8%), followed by Madhya Pradesh (20.7%) and Haryana(20.0%). In rest of the States the percentage is more than 10. Number of elected women over total seats is minimum in Tamil Nadu(2.6%) followed by Karnatka (3.6%).
- Women voters over total votes hover around 45% to 50%. In Madhya Pradesh, the percentage is minimum i.e. around (40.3%),Jammu Kashmir(40.9%) and Uttar Pradesh(42.0)
- Out of the total 245 seats of the Rajya Sabha, there were 22 women members in 2000, which increased to 26 in 2011 signifying an increase of 10.6%. No trend can be seen in percentage of votes polled in ELECTIONS TO THE VIDHAN SABHAS . This was minimum (50.05%) in 2005 and maximum (90.16%)in 2008.

- Expenditure incurred for conducting the election of Lok Sabha was ` 9.48 billion in 1999, which increased to ` 11.14 billion in 2011. The expenditure incurred on electoral officers increased from ` 0.84 billion to ` 0.96 billion in 2009. The expenditure incurred on preparing and printing of electoral rolls decreased from ` 1.57 billion to ` 1.28 billion and the expenditure incurred on conducting of election increased from ` 7.07 billion to ` 7.92 billion during the same period. The total amount of demands received from States and union Territories for conducting the election of Lok Sabha held in 2009 was ` 11.14 billion.