



## DOMINANCE OF MONEY AND PHYSICAL POWER IN ELECTIONEERING OF INDIA

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**Abstract-** Money plays a major role in determining the shape and result of elections. Election expenses are mounting day by day and the common man finds it impossible to contest the election. Political Parties try to nominate those candidates who have or can raise money for party. Rich people and companies who give funds to the political parties try to influence the policies and decisions of the party. In some cases political parties support criminals who can win elections. Democrats all over the world are worried over the increasing role of rich people and big companies in democratic politics. One of main curse in the Democratic prospers is influence of money and Physical power in election. Money power has played decisive role in elections in the past and continuous to do so with greater force today. The candidate spends lavishly in elections and in return show their election expenses within the prescribed ceiling. Three- fourth of the expenditure is shown as having been incurred by political parties under section 77(1) of the Representation of the people's Act 1951. In western democracies where the voters are well educated and have ample means of livelihood, the role of money is insignificant. But, in countries like India, where the majority of people live below the poverty line and illiterate, money plays a vital role. Most of the money that comes into the party coffers is illogotten and black money. The evil influence of money power has brought the public ridicule and has eroded public faith in the system.

**Keywords:** Election, Candidates, Funds, Physical Power etc.

### I. INTRODUCTION

The use of money power in election has been the bane of elections. The obligation on the candidate to use money only to the limited extent as prescribed in the election law and also to file return of the expenses to the election commission has remained a mere formality. In fact most of the members of the Legislature begin their legislative career with a lie by filling false returns of the expenses. The financial limit is unrealistic and the clause that the money spent by the political party is not included in the limit defeat the very spirit of the law to limit the expenses of the candidate contesting in election through law seems to be unpredictable. Hence, there is a suggestion that government must bear some of the expenses of the candidates. Even this recommendation does not seem to serve useful purpose as it will only increase burden on the state without eradicating the evil influence of money in elections. Money power in election seems to be the core for the political corruption. Politicians raise funds from business people and industrialists and obviously this money may be unaccounted black money. The politician has an obligation to the business people who have financed the elections. Thus the corruption begins here and perpetuates subsequently. It is extremely difficult to curtail the influence of money in elections through legislation. It is only public education and public enlightenment which can check this influence.

The growth of money power- A major malady in the operation of elections in India has been the reckless use of money. We recognise that many of the obligations imposed on candidate in most keenly contested election cannot be fulfilled successfully without substantial expenditure. With the rise in prices since 1967 these expenses also cannot be contained within the limits fixed by law either for Loksabha or Assembly elections. But we have received ample proof that the current violation of the law by almost all parties is not related primarily to inflation. The steps rise in election expenses, particularly by the congress party which has access by reason of its power of patronage to business finance, is the result of a deliberate preference in favour of money power as a major instrument for winning elections. The blatant exercise of money power has also deeply eroded the faith of the voter in the belief that people's will has been fairly recorded in recent elections. Evidence led before us by witnesses who had personal knowledge shows that the sums spent in general, by candidates in elections till 1967 did not exceed by far the limits prescribe by law.

There is no doubt that a very large amount was also spent on the state elections. Since all expenditure in excess of legal limits is contrary to law, it obviously generates, in addition to corrupt practices, moral degradation of the whole electoral process. This makes the limit on election expenditure one of the central

conditions of the containment of money power which has been in the last five years so shamelessly abused.

The election authority is not authorised to impose any penalty either for filling false returns of expenditure or for violation of the ceiling imposed by statute. The commission has been harping that section 77(1) as a major obstacle in the implementation of the ceiling of candidate expenditure and should be omitted.

The omission of explanation to section 77(1) of the Act was recommended by Goswami committee on Electoral Reforms in May 1990 on similar grounds. There is no limit on expenditure that a party can incur in election. The parties are not required to maintain any account of election expenditure or file return of it to the election authority. It is not included in the candidates expenditure return as well. This loophole in the law lead to flagrant violation of the ceiling on candidates expenditure. The party should be mandatorily required to maintain accounts of the funds received and the disbursement made auditable by authorised neutral auditors. Further, funds spent by a party for a candidate should form a part of his election returns.

The influence of money and corrupt practices in the eve of elections have deep rooted links to the entire socio- political and economic sphere of the society. And effort to tackle this problem in an isolated way will have very limited success or no success. The competitive political parties require funds for three purposes- to fight elections campaigns, to maintain viable inter-relation of organisation and to provide research facilities and other assistance for leadership and the elected representatives of the parties. Since funds are very critical to a candidate success the freedom that have been enjoyed by the candidate that they could raise money from any known unknown source available and spend as free as much they wanted in just in any way has sown the seeds of corruption in its pervasive form.

The requirement of money for winning an election and to a lesser extent for meeting the needs of political parties for their political activities, legitimate or illegitimate has led to the dependence on those operating black money and other industrial houses. Money plays a major role in determining the shape and result of election. Election expenses are mounting day by day and the common man finds it impossible to contest the election. In western democracies where the voters are well educated and have ample means of livelihood , the role of money is insignificant. But, in countries like India, where the majority of people live below the poverty line and illiterate, money plays a vital role. Most of the money that comes into the party coffers is illogotten and black money. The evil influence of money power has brought the public ridicule and has eroded public faith in the system.

**Money the root of the problem** -- "Money is power, freedom, a cushion, the root of all evil, the sum of blessings " - Carl Sanburg

The primary function of money is to serve as a medium of exchange, and as such it is accepted without question in final discharge of debts or payment of goods or services. The term money generally includes bank notes as well as coins, although it may be limited to such of each as are legal tender at the root cause of many evils like corruption, black marketing, smuggling, drug trafficking,, tax evasion and the buck does not stop here it goes to the extent of sex tourism and human trafficking. People are crazy for money.

**Black money-** Illegally earned money is called black money. Black money is the result of hoarding smuggling tax evasions and dealing in immovable property to which the consideration is paid in black. Black money usually refers to any income on which the taxes imposed by government or public authorities have not been paid. The estimation of black money in electoral politics is fraught with methodological difficulties and hence cannot be computed. Most of the election campaigns were centred on the issue of black money abroad and corruption in India. The political discourse, however did not address the issue regarding black money generated in India, especially during elections and in tge functioning of political parties. While the political community seems united in the intent to combat this menace, the issue has not been effectively resolved yet. The ECI reported that during Loksabha 2014 elections, around Rs 300 crores of unaccounted cash and more than 17,000 kg of drugs and huge amount of liquor, arms etc were seized. This some claim, is a conservative estimate of the actual amount of illegal and illicit funds utilised during the elections.

State funding of elections has been suggested in the past in response to the high cost of elections. A few government reports have looked at state funding of elections in the past, including:

- Indrajit Gupta Committee on State Funding of Elections (1998)
- Law Commission Report on Reform of the Electoral Laws (1999)
- National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (2001)
- Second Administrative Reforms Commission (2008)

### **Objectives of the study**

1. To discuss the power trip role of money in election.
2. To discuss the role of Physical power in election.

## II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The methodology used for the study is based on secondary source such as government reports of various committee, books, journals, magazine, newspaper and print media.

**Physical power-** The direct entry of criminals into the political parties and legislation, including parliaments through election and the use of criminal methods and tactics to influence political processes and procedures is an attempt of criminalize politics of society. It is common to see today that politician buy votes on the basis of power of money and Physical. In some parts of the country, when money power fails, Physical power is employed for increasing the prospects of winning an election.

### **This is done in two ways-**

1. By preventing the voters of weaker sections of society on their way to polling stations for casting their ballots and
2. By forcibly capturing polling booths for making and inserting ballot papers in the ballot box of the candidate of choice.

The original poll was disrupted and re-poll held at 1601 polling stations in the parliamentary general elections of 1989. The figure of re-poll increased to 2601 polling stations. Forty-eight persons were killed in violence in the eighth general elections and the figure of such killings reached to 130 and 150 in the ninth and tenth general elections respectively. Even in 1996, despite elaborate security measures, 52 persons lost their lives. There is a steady and undeterred increase over the years in the number of candidates in the elections, whether for parliament or the state assemblies with criminal cases against them. The proportion of such candidates which stood at 15% in the year 2009 grows up to 17% in 2014 election and has further gone up to an agonizing 19% in the 2019 election in India, as reported by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR).

## III. CONCLUSION

The misuse of Physical and money power has been a growing concern for all these years, which has attracted the attention of Parliament and outside. A number of committees appointed every time by the successive government did not yield any results as these committees were not whole hearted. It is understandable that prevailing situation in the electoral process continue to enjoy support of those parties in power, as no beneficiary consistently serving it well. Though everybody talks about electoral reforms to save the country from political chicanery and gross corruptions, there is an urgent need to stimulate a public debate. In modern societies very little gets accomplished without the transfer of money. The incidence of crime, petty and grand, like any other social phenomena is often linked to the transfer of money, small or large. Money is that senses can both power and also reward crime. The influence of money and Physical power, crime on the election of a representative who leads, reform and directly influence policies undertaken at the state or central level needs to be thoroughly investigated. Among the recommendation made by the commissions, it stated that public funding has the potential to reduce the influence of black money in politics and level the playing field during election. However, the commission asserted that this would be contingent upon resolving the fundamental issues of transparency and disclosure of finance by the candidate and political parties first. Black money in India cannot be lacked without a firm stance by the political community and such a stance would only hold true weight and

power if the finance of the political parties and candidates are open to greater norms of transparency and accountability.

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