



E-ISSN: 2664-603X

P-ISSN: 2664-6021

IJPSG 2023; 5(1): 165-168

www.journalofpoliticalscience.com

Received: 09-12-2022

Accepted: 24-01-2023

Vivek Kumar

Research Scholar, Department of Political Science, School of Liberal Education, Galgotias University, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India

One nation one election: Indian perspective

Vivek Kumar

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.33545/26646021.2023.v5.i1c.217>

Abstract

Democracy is the best form of government and it is the society in which citizens are sovereign and control the government. Election plays an important role to make democracy strong and free and fair is the key of Democracy. Election process is the fundamental characteristic of democratic society, as it ensures the participation of citizens in the development of the nation. We know in India, Elections are held generally every year in some of the States, and due to this development process is slowed down due to the code of conduct. The idea of One Nation One Election, has the potential to stop election during the whole year, the main idea of One Nation One Election is to conduct the election for the Lok Sabha and Legislative assemblies and local bodies simultaneously. According to 79th report of Parliamentary Standing committee 2015, One Nation One Election theory save the millions of rupees in election costs of the government when Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies held at the same time. In this paper, the author investigate the concept of One Nation, One Election be related to India.

Keywords: Democracy, election, election commission, election reform, one nation one election

Introduction

Elections are the most fundamental requirements to operationalize democracy. In India, every year one or more than one state served up for election. These continuously elections are the drawbacks as the campaigning are tiring as well as very expensive.

A new concept of One Nation One Election is proposed to held election simultaneously in Lok Sabha, legislative assemblies of states as well as local bodies' election. In this process Lok Sabha and state legislative assembly election conducted simultaneously in the various phases in all the states. We know, in Indian Constitution, election at all level held after every five year but there is no provision for that election are held simultaneously at state level as well as Centre level. So the One Nation One Election is the method holding single election for both Lok Sabha and State Legislative, instead of separate and continuous election in such framework voters casts their votes for choosing members of state legislative assemblies as well as Lok Sabha at the same time.

Free and fair election are held in accordance with the regulation and election commission play an important role for secure free and fair election and helpful for making democracy strong.

Election Commission

In India, Election Commission of India is an autonomous body which is responsible for administration of Union and State Elections. Election commission of India established on January 25, 1950 and January 25, celebrated as National Voters Day every year.

Constitutional provision related to Election Commission

Part XV of Indian Constitution (Article 324-329) is deals with election and establishment of commission related to election subjects. Following Articles of Indian Constitution are related to Election Commission:

Article 324: Supervision, direction and control of election to be vested in election commission.

Article 325: no person is/are ineligible or inclusion in a special electoral roll on the basis of Religion, Sex, Race or Caste.

Article 326: Election to the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies on the basis of adult franchise.

Corresponding Author:

Vivek Kumar

Research Scholar, Department of Political Science, School of Liberal Education, Galgotias University, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India

Article 327: Power of Parliament to make provision with respect to election to legislature.

Article 328: Power of State Legislative of a state to make provision with respect to State Legislative

Article 329: Bar to interference by courts in Electoral matters

Role of Election Commission

1. Determining the electoral Constituencies throughout the country on the basis of Delimitation Commission Act of Parliament.
2. Preparing the electoral roll and registering voters.
3. Granting recognition to political parties and their symbol and provide them status of National or Status Party.
4. Determine the role of conduct followed by Candidate as well as Party.
5. Advising President on disqualification of MP and Governor on disqualification of MLA respectively.
6. To provide election schedule as well as to sets the election expenditure per candidate.

Challenges faced by Election Commission

1. Increasing violence in Election
2. Not adequately equipped to regulate political parties as it has no power in enforcing inner party Democracy and regulate party finance
3. EVM malfunctioning
4. Multi voter ID card for the same person in Different States
5. Fake news and polls to manipulate election
6. Booth capturing and Votes hijacking
7. Use of illegal money in election
8. Cash for votes and items gifted to voters as a bribery for votes
9. Chunavi Rewadies announced by political parties to get more votes
10. Low participation of women in Election
11. False details filled by candidates in Nomination form and its very hard to cross check their details as many candidates don't show illegal money and property in Nomination form
12. Shortage of Proper trained administrative staff and security, that cause the election duration long and costly

Suggestions

1. Biometric Voter ID card
2. Organize workshop in every constituencies especially rural areas and special reserved areas
3. Restrict criminal or person related to anti-social activities and should be excluded for being an election candidate
4. Promote One Nation One Election strategies and invite political parties on their views on One Nation One Election policy that will increase the political participation and reduce the expenses in election i.e. elections are held every year at different level
5. Organizing special camp for voter ID card
6. Provide financial support to poor candidates such that he/she take part in contesting election
7. Commission need to more vigilant and watchful against

the collusion at the lower level of civil servant and police bureaucracy in the favor of the ruling party.

8. For more transparent election use of VVPAT is need of an hour
9. Stop the news channel and media as well as social media for spreading false news and polls.
10. As we know 21st century is the century of Information Technology so started E-Voting for voters that are not available for physically cast their vote.

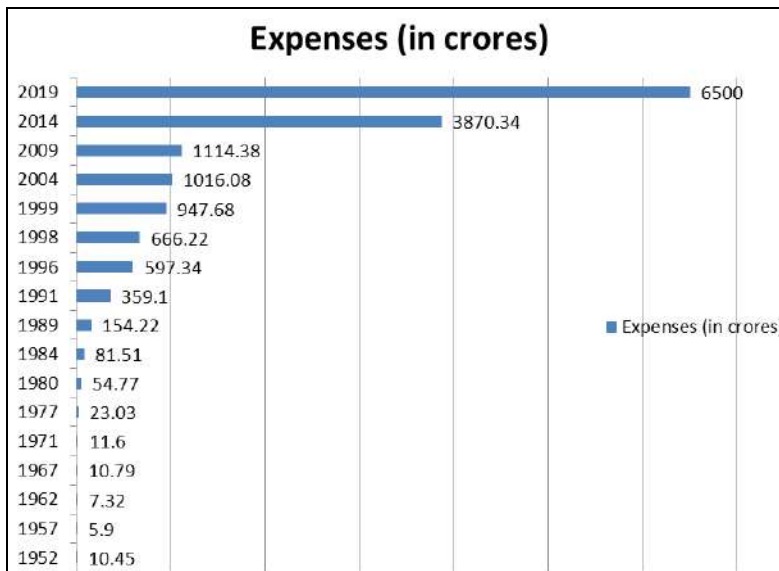
One Nation One Election

In a report, Parliamentary Committee reported that if all types of elections are conducted in the country at once, not only will it reduce the burden on election commission but the expenditure of political parties also reduced. Today One Nation One Election is not a matter of discussion but it is a contemporary need of India, as we know every year somewhere in the country election are being held. The frequent elections have an impact on administrative work as well as burden on political parties. After Independence in the year 1952, 1957, 1962 and 1967 general election have been held together at center level as well as state assemblies, after 1967 in many state as well as at state center level government dissolved many times before their 5 year tenure. If One Nation One Election concept regulated then it will give a new direction to the country because lot of times and money spend in repeated election will be saved and this saved money use for country Development.

Year	Election States
2018	Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura
2019	Loksabha general Election, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Telangana
2020	Bihar, Jharkhand, Delhi
2021	Assam, Kerala, Tamil-Nadu, West Bengal, Pondicherry
2022	Presidential and Vice-Presidential election, Goa, Uttarakhand, Manipur, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat
2023	Tripura, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Karnataka, (Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan, Telangana, J&K-Tentative)

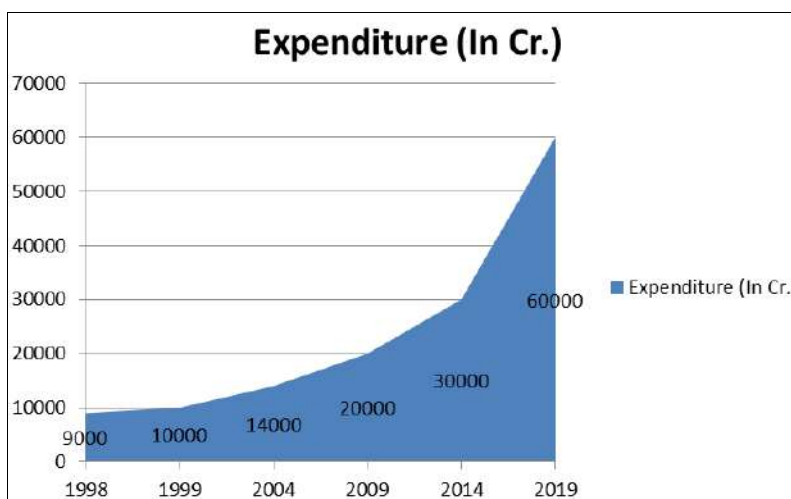
Election Commission expenses Loksabha

Year	Expenses (in cores)
1952	10.45
1957	5.9
1962	7.32
1967	10.79
1971	11.6
1977	23.03
1980	54.77
1984	81.51
1989	154.22
1991	359.1
1996	597.34
1998	666.22
1999	947.68
2004	1016.08
2009	1114.38
2014	3870.34
2019	6500 (est.)



Election Expenditure by all Political parties in Lok Sabha

Year	Total Expenditure (in Crores)
1998	9000
1999	10000
2004	14000
2009	20000
2014	30000
2019	60000



Pros of One Nation One Election

1. It will help Lok Sabha to complete tenure of five years
2. Saving time
3. Reduce cost and save money spend in election
4. More focus on development- as mostly time spent in conducting election campaigning
5. Reduce the disruption of service sector- in election mostly Teachers and other Government official are involved in electoral process that cause the disruption in their academic or departmental work
6. Paramilitary Forces struck in election whole year and if implementing One Nation One Election, such forces have not any burden of election duties up-to next five years.
7. Provide more time to all the stakeholders i.e. political parties, Election Commission of India (ECI), paramilitary forces, civilians for the preparation of elections once in five years.

Cons of One Nation One Election

1. Need to amend the Constitution
2. If election held at every five years at center and state level simultaneously then the interaction between politicians and public less active.
3. Need for large number of administrative staff and security for elections.
4. We know in Indian politics, voters have different political behavior on election at Centre and state level, after implementing One Nation One Election its very hard for them to choose candidate
5. It affects the political autonomy of the state.
6. It is difficult to convince and bring together all the political parties on the idea.
7. For holding simultaneous elections, the requirements for Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and the Voter Verified Paper Audit Trails (VVPATs) will double as the ECI has to provide two sets (one for election to the

Legislative Assembly and second for that to the Lok Sabha).

8. National parties can mute the voice of smaller parties at the state level as they have higher clout.
9. The Smaller parties that came into being to tackle regional problems of the people of the state will be side-lined.

One Voter List

Only one voter list should be used for Lok Sabha, Vidhan Sabha and other elections, as we know that voter list is prepared by Election Commission of India.

Advantages of One Voter List

A common electoral roll will save an enormous amount of effort and expenditure as the preparation of a separate voters list causes duplication of the effort and the expenditure.

Challenges

1. Persuading the state governments to tweak their respective laws and adopt the ECI voter list for municipal and panchayat polls.
2. For One Voter List Election Commission requires a massive consensus-building exercise.

Suggestions

The mature approach calls for the option of states adopting EC's voter list. The EC's voters list has to be made in a way to fit the State Election Commissions' wards which is a tedious task but can be done by the use of technology.

Conclusion

The Constitution of India has fundamentally provided a federal structure of State governance. There are several government levels such as Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha besides State Governments, Municipal Corporations and the Panchayats. The power is not in one hand, it is divided into various level of government while if One Nation One Election came into the force then the power is on one hand. It can be a remarkable change to the Indian election system if it could be carried out with the proper execution of rules and regulations, taking care of the rising need for good administrative staff and security as "The standing committee has said that solutions should be found to reduce the frequency of elections India so that government machinery, as well as election commission, can get some time for other administrative works. For better democratic development we should also think about improvements like government funding of elections and computerised voting and providing voter's secrecy to caste their through electronic mode. We have to be definitely careful in structuring and implementing the One Nation One Election concept in a manner and way that our faith in federal structure and democracy remains intact. Now the big question is that, is India really ready to change the traditional election mechanism and to adopt One Nation One Election policy?"

References

1. <https://eci.gov.in/>
2. <https://www.bloomberg.com/india>
3. <https://www.cmsindia.org/>
4. legislative.gov.in/constitution-of-India
5. Pib.gov.in. 2022. Election Expenditure per elector up by twenty times in 2009 compared to first General

- Elections.
6. Arun Kumar Kaushik, Yugank Goya. The Desirability of One Nation One Election in India: Simultaneous Elections, the Journal of Social, Political and Economic Studies; c2019.
7. Parindu Bhagat, Purvi Pokharya. Conceptual Framework- One Nation One Election, Ilkogretim Online; c2020.
8. Meenakshi Bansal. The Concept of One Nation One Election: An Analysis from Indian Perspective, Think India Journal; c2019.
9. Shubhank Khare. One Nation One Election in India, International Journal of Law Management & Humanities; c2022.
10. Santoshkumar R, Lalithambika R. A New National Election Reforms "One India One Election and also People with Three Votes, Voice of Intellectual Man- An International Journal; c2020.
11. newsonair.gov.in.