



E-ISSN: 2664-603X
P-ISSN: 2664-6021
IJPSG 2024; 6(1): 73-76
www.journalofpoliticalscience.com
Received: 02-11-2023
Accepted: 07-12-2023

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Governance and controversy: The role of governors in Indian state administration

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.33545/26646021.2024.v6.i1b.304>

Abstract

The governor is designated as the head of state administration by the constitution. He is, nevertheless, the state's law and order figure. The Cabinet is the actual body in charge of governance. The actual authority to rule the state is exercised by the cabinet. The administration of the governor's administrative duties is closely related to the state cabinet. Article 163(1) of the Constitution states that each state's chief minister will preside over a Cabinet that will advise and assist the governor in running the government. Regarding the administrative responsibilities of the Governor and the State Cabinet in state governance, the directives found in Article 164 of the Constitution are significant. On the Chief Minister's recommendation, the Governor appoints the Chief Minister and other ministers. However, the core tenets of parliamentary government place restrictions on the governor's ability to choose the chief minister. There is a limit to the governor's ability to name the Chief Minister. Every state is required by Article 153 of the Constitution to have a single governor. The Seventh Constitution Amendment Act of 1956 permits the appointment of one person to serve as governor in two or more states. From Kashmir to Kerala, from Gujarat to Bengal, they are well-represented in every state, are accorded constitutional deference, and receive budgets worth millions of rupees. In the center of the city are opulent palaces, where chefs live and feed the army that guards them. However, where does the controversy go after all of this? The governor is constantly beset by allegations of connections to the Center. There is no end to the debate on the role of Governors in India. All other parties, with the exception of the party in control at the center, claim that the governor acts as a representative of the federal government. West Bengal is not an exception to the rule that the only responsibility of those holding this position in different states is to submit to the wishes of that party or the federal government. Since that time of the Congress, the people of Bengal have had about thirty governors. Some people think that relationships with state governments should be amicable, while others think they should be very antagonistic.

Keywords: Governor, West Bengal, government, role, politics

Introduction

The authority and reach of each state's administrative department have grown dramatically in the modern world. Furthermore, in a parliamentary democracy, the administrative branch has established its superiority over the legislative branch. This holds true for the Indian states in their entirety. With state coalition cabinets, however, things are frequently different. Once more, if the majority of assembly members oppose it, there's a chance the cabinet will be weakened. It is noteworthy that the Chief Minister currently possesses the majority of the authority of the State Council of Ministers due to recent changes made to the parliamentary system of government. The importance and status of the Cabinet position are at odds with the Governor's discretionary authority. The majority of legislature members must actively and resolutely support the state cabinet in order for the governor to disregard the cabinet's recommendations. It is not within the Governor's authority to remove the State People's Cabinet on behalf of the Central Government. India is governed by a federal system. States in India that resemble the central government have also adopted parliamentary systems of governance, meaning that state and federal governments operate similarly to one another. The political philosophy of the parliamentary form of government divides the states into two halves. Real or working and constitutional or nominal are these two components. The governor is the head of state administration; similar to the president of the center, he leads nominal administration. On the advice of the state's responsible cabinet, the governor is tasked with overseeing the administration of state affairs.

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When viewed from this angle, the roles of governor and president are the same. However, there is never-ending discussion as to whether the governor qualifies as the state's fully nominal ruler. The positions of governor and president are distinct due to certain clauses in the constitution. The Constitution grants tenure discretionary powers in specific areas. However, the president lacks latitude. Furthermore, the President must follow the Cabinet's recommendations in accordance with the 42nd Amendment Act of the Constitution. However, the governor's case contained no mention of this duty. The governor, unlike the president, is not a figurehead for all these reasons.

The Chief Minister's power and authority in the administration are unimpeded when the Governor takes on the role of constitutional ruler. On the other side, the chief minister must deal with challenges if there is rivalry or conflict in their relationship with the governor. If the Chief Minister is to move the Governor from being the center of independent power to being the umbrella organization, he will have to deal with a number of unfavorable circumstances. The governor of a state attempts to position himself as a different power center if the same political party controls both the state and the federal government. Because at that time both the Prime Minister's and the President's advice served as a guidance to him. Examining the policies of the West Bengal governors provides an illustration of this.

Objective

The major objectives of the study are given below:

1. To follow the development and purpose of the governor's office.
2. The purpose of this study is to explore the issues of bitterness in the relationship between the governor and the government in West Bengal.
3. To look at the actual powers of the governor and how they affect state politics.

Methodology

In order to fully examine the function of the governor in Indian State, this study will combine historical and analytical approaches. We'll gather pertinent data on the subject by consulting both primary and secondary sources. A number of reputable national and international journals published books and articles by learned scholars were among the secondary sources of information, while the Indian Constitution and reports from various committees and commissions were among the primary sources.

Role and position of governor in West Bengal

In the actual proposal, the governor's appointment is a political one. The Central Government appoints governors for political convenience without consulting state chief ministers due to the current political climate. The governors of various states are typically chosen by prominent academics, retired military chiefs, retired bureaucrats, and political figures, whether they are currently serving or have retired. Many people consider it to be a Congress system because the Congress party ruled the center and the states of India prior to 1967. Consequently, there isn't any resentment between the state and the governor. The Congress party took power in several Indian states after 1967. Additionally, there is political unrest in a number of states, a crisis within the Congress party in certain states, etc. Because of these, the governor took an active role in expanding the state

administration. And consequently, there was a contentious discussion about how to define the governor's position within the state government. This led to conflict in many Indian political systems, West Bengal included. There is a perception of conflict between the state government and the governor, who serves as its representative at the center, in the states where anti-center political parties predominate in Indian politics. For instance, the following provides a critical evaluation of the governor's role in the Indian state of West Bengal:

West Bengal was ruled by the Congress party for a considerable amount of time following India's independence. Consequently, the center-state conflict is not evident in that sense because the state and the center are governed by the same party. The governor's role has evolved in West Bengal politics ever since the anti-center political party took power. When Governor Dharma vira dismissed the United Front government of seasoned Bengal Congressman Ajay Mukherjee in 1967, it caused a stir. But in 1969, the United Front regained control. It is customary for the President or the Governor to read a written statement prepared by the administration in the Legislative Assembly, also known as the Lok Sabha. He was given speeches by the government to read in front of the assembly following the formation of the cabinet in 1969. "I wrongfully disbanded the First United Front Government," said the statement. The portion not in the written speech was read by the governor. Leaders of the United Front and ministers kept pressing Dharma Vira to recite the line, but she refused. That was when the conflict with the United Front began, following the election of a new government. Later, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi dismissed Dharma Vira and appointed Shanti Swaroop Dhavan as the Governor of Bengal in response to pressure from the state government.

The story of the governor's confrontation with the state government and political parties continued after Dharma Vira left office. This state has a long history of conflict. Dhavan's conflict with the Left started in 1971. The CPM (I) and the Left were the two largest parties in the 1971 assembly elections. They were awarded 113 seats. Congress is given 105. However, Dhavan called Congress first and did not initially call on the Left to form the government. With a sarcastic remark, Jyoti Basu remarked, "In Dhavan's Dharapat, 105 is bigger than 113." Congress rule from 1972 to 1977 came after this. Conflict between the governor and the state government was practically nonexistent. In 1977, the Left Front formed the government with a huge majority. Additionally, the 'friend' government under Morarji Desai is situated at the center. The Center appointed Tribhuvana Narayana Singh as the Governor of West Bengal in response to a request from the Left. Never once did Tribhuvana-Jyoti break the rhythm. When Indira Gandhi reclaimed Delhi Masnad in 1980, trouble began. At that time, B.D. Pande was sent as governor by Indira Gandhi. The full name is Bhairab Dutt Pande, but according to state CPI (M) secretary Pramod Dasgupta, "B.D." stands for Bangadaman, not Bhairab Dutt. Pramod Dasgupta, also known as Jyoti Basu, has referred to the governor as Bangadaman Pandey whenever the governor has disagreed with the state administration.

Anant Prasad Sharma became the Governor of West Bengal in 1984. His relationship with the Left Fornt government was not sweet either. That year, the state government sent three names to the governor and Chancellor as usual for the

nomination of the vice chancellor of Calcutta University. Out of those three names, Governor Sharma chose Santosh Bhattacharyya as the vice chancellor, who was the most disliked name in the government. The governor's conflict with the state government reached its height. Sharma did not back down from his decision. But the Left did not allow Santosh Bhattacharyya to work in peace as the Vice-Chancellor. The Vice-Chancellor was subjected to continuous harassment, sometimes by the student organization and sometimes by the university staff organization. Some feel, "CPM (I) has made it their nature to oppose the governor. They think that the post of governor should be given away. So whenever he became the governor, they would start talking bitterly in his name." The politician cited the example of T.V. Rajeswar. T.V. Rajeswar became the Governor of West Bengal in 1990. He was earlier the country's intelligence chief. After getting the news of his appointment as governor, CPM (I) leaders said that this time the intelligence was sent to spy on the state government. They believe that the governorship ought to be awarded. That's why they would begin slandering him in his name as governor. The politician gave T.V. Rajeswar as an example. In 1990, T.V. Rajeswar was appointed Governor of West Bengal. He was the nation's chief intelligence officer before. Leaders of the CPM (I) claimed that this time the intelligence was sent to spy on the state government after learning of his appointment as governor.

During the tenure of Gopalkrishna Gandhi, the Left Front's downfall was guaranteed. 2011 saw Mamata Banerjee take the oath of office as Chief Minister, given by Governor M.K. Narayanan. The State Secretariat's relationship with Raj Bhavan entered a new phase. Considering that Mamata Banerjee never adopted such a stance, despite attempts by the left to exert pressure on the government, Mamata Banerjee has consistently been observed attempting to foster positive ties with the governor. However, the battle continued after that. The Harimohan Ghosh College student council elections in 2013 caused a rift. Calcutta Police sub-inspector Tapas Chowdhury died in the firing. The Chief Minister visited East Medinipur that day. Governor M.K. Narayanan visited Tapas Chowdhury's house before the Chief Minister's return and offered condolences to his family. The Chief Minister did not like it. The then Kolkata Police Commissioner, R.K. Pachnanda, also took a very strong stance on the death of Sub-Inspector Tapas Chowdhury. The chief minister did not agree with that position either. Apachnanda was taken out. Next up was Governor Narayanan. He made it apparent that he did not think Pachnanda's removal was appropriate. The state government and the governor were at odds more often. The governor will be shown a "yellow card," according to Subrata Mukhopadhyay, speaking on behalf of the state administration.

In 2014, Kesharinath Tripathi was appointed as the Governor of West Bengal. His comprehension of the state government wasn't problematic at first. However, the governor became more transparent following the outbreak of communal unrest in a number of North 24 Parganas districts, including Basirhat, Baduria, Swarupnagar, and Deganga. He was vehemently critical of the state administration's handling of the crisis. That's how the commotion got louder. The Chief Minister said the Governor had insulted him at a press conference. Mamata Banerjee remarked at the time, "He has never been

humiliated like that."

Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar: "The state government is in danger from the very beginning, as there is a contentious conversation." Jadavpur University was under siege on September 19, according to Union Minister Babul Supriyo. Hours passed during the siege. Babul started to receive more and more harassment allegations. In the evening, Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar started to take an interest in the matter. That day he had a phone conversation with the state's top officials. In order to arrange for Babul's rescue, he gave the Vice Chancellor of Jadavpur instructions to contact the police on campus. In disagreement was the vice chancellor. It was also advised by the governor to remove the vice-chancellor. Ultimately, he fled to the university grounds on foot. It was the governor driving his own car to save Babul Supriyo. Regarding this incident, the ruling party and the governor's office have been engaged in a back-and-forth exchange of statements for several days. The governor had overreached his constitutional authority, according to the Trinamool Congress. The governor's office sharply criticized the state government and charged that it had failed to carry out its mandate in a counterstatement.

Despite his two and a half months in Bengal, Jagdeep Dhankhar has made it clear that he is not one to give up. He has stated time and time again that he is aware of the breadth of his constitutional rights. "I will never cross the line myself," he declared. I refuse to permit anyone to enter West Bengal through the border. Still, the majority of political analysts in this state predict that this conflict will intensify rather than abate. Jagdeep Dhankhar's outspokenness on a number of issues has already generated a great deal of controversy. But the Bengali ruling class could not continue to insist that he was a lawbreaker. Some political analysts claim that Dhankhar is prepared to exercise all of the governor's authority. Mamata Banerjee's government could face more challenges ahead. Political favoritism accusations could be more severe. Yet observers say a much larger conflict is just around the corner. A lot of people believe that Dhankhar will outlive the Dharma Vira era.

After the appointment of C.V. Ananda Bose as the caretaker governor, the first expression of discontent was seen from the Bengal BJP side. Subsequently, C.V. Anand Bose followed the path shown by Jagdeep Dhankhar, resulting in the political relief of the BJP in Bengal. The West Bengal State Government vs. Governor Relationship has reached rock bottom. Currently, West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose is locked in controversy with Trinamool Congress over the 'Chancellor Bill'. I don't want the governor as Chancellor; I want the chief minister as Chancellor. The university and colleges of the state are in a frenzy due to this demand from the professors' organization of the Trinamool Congress. The state education minister wants to see the chief minister as a chancellor. The Trinamool Congress government passed the bill to make the chief minister a chancellor by majority in the assembly. Later, when the bill was sent to the governor for assent, the governor blocked the bill. Governor-versus-state conflict over the appointment of vice chancellors in state universities. The conflict with the state education department over the appointment of temporary vice chancellors by the governor continues to escalate. The state higher education department said it will not recognize vice chancellors appointed by government-run universities. The

higher education department claimed that the governor appointed the temporary vice chancellor without following the rules. The matter was taken up for trial by the Supreme Court, and the Supreme Court gave a verbal order to the Governor and the Chief Minister to resolve the issue by appointing the Vice-Chancellor. But nothing is resolved. The Supreme Court asked for the formation of a committee comprising representatives of the UGC, the Governor, and state governments to recommend names for the appointment of a vice chancellor. The governor strongly condemned the administrative management for the attack on E.D. in Sandeshkhali. The state-versus-governor conflict still persists in the political system of West Bengal. West Bengal's socio-economic and cultural aspects are currently unstable and rife with corruption, which makes the administrative system appear to be at odds with the government and governor.

Conclusion

India's centralized federal system is thought to have issues with having an elected governor. The governor's allegiance to the state will only be reinforced if he is chosen, either directly or indirectly, by the electorate. When the center and the state are at odds, he will side with the state. The consequence will be a threat to national and regional interests, undermining national unity and cohesion. However, there has been criticism of the president's governor appointment process from a variety of quarters. Critics assert that India is governed by a federal system. States are expected to maintain their independence within their respective domains under the US political system. However, independence and autonomy of the governor are not to be expected if the president, the head of the central administration, nominates the governor, the head of state administration. If the President so chooses, he can use the Governor to create centralized authority over state governance. The governor's appointment system is said to be against federal policy for all of these reasons. It is important to note that the central government in the United States of America does not have the exclusive right to name or remove the state's administrative head. This is also true in Australia and other countries. On the other hand, the Canadian system has been mainly adopted in India.

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