Research Paper

Coalition Politics: Emergence of Regional Parties in India

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I.   INTRODUCTION:

The parliamentary system of government is the cornerstone of the Indian politics. The decision of the framers of the Indian constitution to opt for parliamentary system of government was influenced bath by historical considerations and political necessities. For longs, India had been used to the parliamentary institutions like the '*Sabha*' and the *Samities* of the ancient or indigenous Indian Panchayats system, which was a rule by elected (five) elders of the community. These institutions contained the seed of the parliamentary system of government of modern India, even though they were different to a great extent from the modern parliamentary institution of the west. The parliamentary institutions of the west were introduced in India by the British rulers.

The earliest documents in which the world 'Parliament' is found in the eleventh-century Chansonde Roland, where it is used simply to refer to a conversation between two persons. In a basic sense, the society of the future will come not out of the laboratories of science or the halls of legislation but out of the minds of creative geniuses in these ideational fields. Emerson, the American scholar, very appropriately said, "Not he is great who can alter matter, but he who can alter my state of mind.[1]The present system of different political governance in the world is the creation of great thinkers and scholars. It is universal truth that, "necessity is the mother of invention". The earliest parliamentary institutions in India were established under the Charter of 1833, which separated the legislature from the executive. Since then the parliamentary democracy has continued to grow in India under various acts like the act of 1861, 1892 and the government of India acts of 1909, 1919 and 1935, which granted greater and greater power to the legislative councils in small does. In a course of time, the nominated element in the legislature was also replaced by the elected element, with the introduction of universal adult franchise.

Democracy, one of the greatest ideas of human kind has ever developed, is central to any understanding of development. If we take the Greek origin of the world literally, demos meaning people and Krateinmeaning rule, we were at the system ruled or governed by the people.[2] Abraham Lincoln's defines it as 'government of the people, by the people, and for the people. In democracy the idea of 'one man one vote' is postulated upon the spiritual equality of man. The post second world war era saw the spread of democracy not only informer Axis powers. Japan, Germany and Italy, but also in some third world country notable in India.[3] On August, 1947 India celebrated her first independence day and with that nation joined the family of free nations.

II.   SCENARIO AFTER INDEPENDENCE:

The country was then governed under the government of India act 1935. On this occasion Prime Minister Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru evoked one of his greatest speeches in the constituent assembly that at the mid night hour' India would awake to life and freedom. Long years ago we made a tryst with destiny and now the time comes when we shall redeem our pledge, not wholly or in full measure, but very substantially. A moment comes, which comes but rarely in history, when we step out from the old to the new, when an age ends, and when the soul of nation, long suppressed, finds utterance. It is filling that at this solemn moment we take the pledge of dedication to the service of India and her people, and to the still large course of humanity.[4]The freedom of India was achieved by a mass democratic movement based on non-violance with due regards to the law imposed by an alien rule. People of India want this democratic system which is enshrined in the constitution of India to be everlasting and successful. The nationalist movement, which culminated in the achievement of independence was not the result of a few agitation. It was the outcome of a large number of factors and the most important among them was British imperialism. British imperialism made the people of India think themselves as one nation. Prof. Moon rightly observes, "British imperialism in India gave her a political unity a third party inspite of the many discordant elements in Indian society.

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A vast country like India could be best governed only through democratic Principles. Only democracy can bring about peace and prosperity in different colour of community. The constitutional markers decided to introduce parliamentary democratic institutions at various levels from village, Panchayats at the bottom, to the Union Parliament at the top and gave these institutions adequate powers. The fundamental law of this land is enshrined in the constitution of India. In a multi-party democracy, the multi-party system is adopted by the representation of people Act 1951 has made it mandatory that the political parties register themselves and the candidates for the election take oath of allegiance to the constitution. The party system for parliamentary democracy in India is now significantly recognized by various statutory provisions and the tenth schedule to the constitution of India engrafted in 1985. The tenth schedule regulates in detail the situations arising from splits and defections. This anti-defection tenth schedule also provides for loss of membership of parliament state legislative assembly's under some conditions or joining of a political party by an independently elected member.

The representation of the people (amendment) act of 1988 also gives statutory recognition to political party system when it provides for registration of political party with the election commission. A party may be designated as "National Party" or state party or unrecognized party. For corrupt practices as laid down in representation of people Act 1951, a political party may be de-recognized by the Election Commission and thereafter it will be unable to contest elections.[5] Political parties are the very life blood of democracy. Without them democracy designate into totalitarianism, as Madever says, "There can be no unified statement of principle, no orderly evolution of policy, no regular resort to the constitutional device of parliamentary elections, nor of course any of the recognized institution by means of which a party seeks to gain or to maintain power.

III.   THE WESTERN POLITICS AND INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM:

The multi-party parliaments pre-dominate in western parliamentary democracies. They constitute over 75 percent of all peacetime parliamentary that formed from 1918 & 1974. There is no parliamentary regime that has not experienced with multi-party policies.[6] India is the largest democracy of the world leaving aside the short span of 1975 and 1976 except of this period the democracy has remained uninterrupted in India. Adult franchise, impartial elections, independent judiciary, multi-party system and free press are the cornerstones of our democratic setup, people change governments through ballot.[7] The decline of Congress in the later of the decade of sixties brought certain new trends in the Indian political system. The two and half year Janta regime was the beginning of coalition experiment of different political parties. Although the coalition government had been formed at different times in large number of developed and developing countries, but it was a new trend in India polity after the enforcement of Indian constitution. Infect coalition signifies the fragmentation of the popular mandate to an extend that no single political party in a position to secure majority in the legislature.

The gradual decline of Congress party was responsible for emergence of coalition politics in Indian polity. At the same time the discontinuation of simultaneous election to the Indian parliament as well as state assembly also responsible for coalition politics.[8]The strengthening of regional forces, in various states and failure of centre to satisfy the regional aspiration also helped in the formation of coalition politics in Indian polity. The states of Indian union which witnessed the coalition experience prior to the union level were Kerala and West Bengal and later on Punjab, Maharashtra, U.P., Haryana and J&K, the study of coalition politics in India can be divided into two parts, pre and post-independence. In pre-independence in 1937 elections, a sort of coalition government was formed in Punjab. The interim government established in India on the recommendations of the cabinet mission 1945 was also a short of coalition government, as it included the representations of the congress,the Muslim league, the Akali Dal and some other groups. Fourteen representative were included in this government six from Congress five from Muslim league, one from Akali Dal, one from Anglo-Indian community and one from parse community Congress leader.PanditJawaharLal Nehru was appointed as the first Prime Minister of India.[9] The interim government was formed in preparation for independence. Generally the coalitions are formed on account of one of the following three reasons:

First no single political party is able to secure a working majority in the popular house on account of the presence of multi-party system. Under the circumstances a number of like-mined political parties form the coalition to provide a workable majority and run the government.France provides a typical example of this type of coalitions.

Secondly, in a bi-party system a dead lock may be created due even balance between two political parties. This may lead to one of the two parties allying itself with a minor group such as neutrals or defectors to tilt the minority in its favour.Thirdly, a coalition may be necessitated by national crises when the various political groups may suspend their political strife and collaborate in the general course of protecting and promoting their national interests. As example the British coalition government was formed to deal with the abnormal conditions during the First World War. In India the coalition governments have mainly been the result of multi-party system.[10]

IV. CONCLUSION:

In India the coalition governments at the centre formally began in 1989 and have continued till today, in 1989-99 five Prime Minister and eight coalition governments were formed. The coalition system attained a fair degree of maturity under the BJP led NDA governments during 1998-2004, and after the Congress led-UPA alliance led the coalition government at centre. It was first coalition alliance of Congress at the centre level to lead the governments.

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