

READING MATERIAL
SUBJECT: POLITICAL SCIENCE
CLASS: XI
BOOK: DEMOCRATIC POLITICS - I
CHAPTER: 3: ELECTORAL POLITICS

ELECTION:

The mechanism by which people can choose their representatives at regular intervals and change them whenever they want to is called an election.

ELECTORAL CONSTITUENCY:

India is divided into different areas for the purpose of elections. These areas are called electoral constituencies. The voters who live in an area elect one representative .

1. For Lok Sabha elections, India is divided into 543 constituencies. The representative select from each constituency is called a Member of Parliament or an MP.
2. Each state is divided into a specific number of Assembly constituencies. In this case , the elected representatives is called Member of Legislative Assembly or an MLA .
3. The same principle applies for Panchayat and Municipal elections. Each village or town is divided into several 'wards' that are like constituencies . Each ward elects one member of the village or the urban local body .

RESERVED CONSTITUENCY :

Some constituencies are reserved for people who belong to the SC and ST . In Lok Sabha, 84 seats are reserved for the SC and 47 seats are reserved for the ST . In SC reserved constituency, only someone who belongs to Schedule Caste can stand for election and in ST reserved constituency, only someone who belongs to Schedule Tribe can stand for election.

VOTER LIST :

In democratic election ,the list of those who are eligible to vote is prepared much before the election and given to everyone, which is commonly known as the voters list.

NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES :

Nomination is part of the process of selection a candidate for either election to a public office or the bestowing of an honor or award. A collection of nominees narrowed from the full list of candidates is a short list .

ELECTION CAMPAIGN :

Election campaigns are the means by which candidates and political parties prepare and present their ideas and positions on issues to the voters in the period preceding election day. Contestants use a variety of techniques to reach voters and deliver their messages, including through traditional and new media, public events, written materials, or other mean.

BALLOT PAPER :

A ballot paper is a sheet of paper on which the names of the contesting candidates along with party names and symbols are listed. The ballot paper was used earlier.

ELECTRONIC VOTING MACHINE :

Electronic Voting Machine (also khown as EVM) is voting using electronic means to either aid or take care of the chores of casting and counting votes .

POLING PLACE :

A poling place is where voters cast their ballots in elections. The phrase polling station is the specific room (or part of a room) where voters cast their votes. The day when the voters cast or 'poll' their vote is called 'election day'.

FREE AND FAIR ELECTION :

Free and fair election is refers to those elections which are not based on any political torture. It happen in a democratic and social way in which everybody have the right to choose their representatives according to their choices, their wishes and their will and the competing parties doesn't try to influences people to choose them as their representatives as it's a crime !

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