

SALIENT FEATURES OF THE REPRESENTATION OF PEOPLE'S ACT.

Recognition to political parties:

- 1) EC will review status of political party every 10 year rather than 5
- 2) ensures that the election symbol is not used by any other
- 3) ruling parties do not lose their status due to anti-incumbency
- 4) National party:
 - a) 2% seats or 11 seats in LS from at least 3 different states.
 - b) State party in 4 state
 - c) 6% votes in 4 states + 4 LS seats
- 5) Review of status of national party
 - a) TMC become 7th national party (4 states: Aru P, WB, Tripura, Manipur)
 - b) Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) order was amended
- 6) Recent changes:
 - a) performance over two consecutive Lok Sabha or assembly will be considered r/t previous one.
 - b) changes have helped other parties to maintain national party status.
- 7) State party:
 - a) 3% seats in LA.
 - b) 1 LS seat for every 25 seat allotted to that state.
 - c) polled 6% of votes in a State + 1 Lok Sabha or 2 Legislative Assembly seats.
 - d) polled 8% of votes
- 8) Benefits:
 - a) State : allotment of its reserved symbol
 - b) National Party' : allotment of its reserved symbol to the candidates set up by it throughout India.
 - i) pan-India symbol helps parties reach out to prospective voters.
 - ii) need only one proposer + two sets of electoral rolls
 - c) broadcast/telecast facilities over Akashvani/Doordarshan.
 - d) Can nominate 40 "Star Campaigners" during General Elections. r/t maximum 20 '
 - e) The travel expenses of star campaigners are not to be accounted

ROPA

- 1) **Representation of Peoples Act 1950 (RPA Act 1950) (Qurds)**
 - a. **Qualification** of voters.
 - b. Preparation of electoral **rolls**.
 - c. **Delimitation** of constituencies.
 - d. Allocation of **seats** in the Parliament and state legislatures.
- 2) **RPA Act 1951 provides for(bc-podar)**
 - a. Actual **conduct** of elections.
 - b. **Administrative** machinery for conducting elections.
 - c. **Poll**
 - d. Election **offences**.
 - e. Election **disputes**.
 - f. **By-elections**.
 - g. **Registration** of political parties

Election Commission writes to Centre, seeks power to postpone, revoke polls

- 1) Asked center to amend RPA and give power to postpone or countermand polls based on evidence that money power was used to influence voters
- 2) Commission has asked to insert a new clause '**58 B**' in the ROPA, 1951 to allow adjournment or countermanding of election in the affected polling areas on the grounds of use of money power.
- 3) This will empower Commission to re-schedule the elections in such areas.
- 4) Clause 58 A + proposed 58B -> the expression "countermand the election" would mean ab initio rescinding of the entire electoral process in the constituency
- 5) Clause 58 A empowers the EC to cancel polls only if there is an evidence of booth-capturing or use of muscle power to influence the outcome of elections
- 6) Presently, ECI can take actions under Article 324 of the Constitution.