

- The SBI is the only bank authorised to sell these bonds to the donor, who in turn anonymously donates these bonds to the political party.
- **Receiver** - Electoral Bonds shall be received only by the Political Parties registered under Section 29A of the Representation of People Act, 1951.
- Also, these Political Parties should have secured not less than 1% of the votes polled in the last General Election to the House of the People or the Legislative Assembly of the State.
- **Encash** - The Electoral Bonds shall be encashed by an eligible Political Party only through a Bank account with the Authorized Bank. E.g.: SBI.
- The political party has to encash into the account which is registered with the Election Commission of India.
- **Validity** - Electoral Bond shall be valid for 15 calendar days from the date of issue and no payment shall be made to any payee Political Party if the Electoral Bond is deposited after expiry of the validity period.
- The Electoral Bond deposited by an eligible Political Party in its account shall be credited on the same day.
- SBI deposits bonds that a political party hasn't encashed within 15 days into the Prime Minister's Relief Fund.
- In India, for the last three years, electoral bonds have become the dominant method of political party funding.
- It allows for limitless and anonymous donations to political party which means that well-resourced corporations can buy politicians by paying immense sums of money.
- Since the donations are routed through the SBI, it is possible for the government to find out who is donating to which party.
- It becomes a very effective way to squeeze donations to rival political parties.

7. GOVERNANCE

7.1 Article 311

- Sachin Waze was dismissed from service by Mumbai Police Commissioner under Article 311 (2) (b) without a departmental enquiry.
- To know more about the Sachin Waze Case, [click here](#).
- **Article 311** safeguards civil servants by give them a chance to respond to the charges in an enquiry so that he/she is not arbitrarily dismissed from service with some exceptions.
- It puts certain restrictions on the absolute power of the President or Governor for dismissal, removal or reduction in rank of an officer.
- Safeguards under Article 311 are applicable only to civil servants, i.e. public officers, and not to defence personnel.
- Article 311 (1) - No government employee either of an all India service or a state government shall be dismissed or removed by an authority subordinate to the own that appointed him/her.
- Article 311 (2) - No civil servant shall be dismissed or removed or reduced in rank except after an inquiry in which s/he has been informed of the charges and given a reasonable chance to respond to the charges.
- **Exceptions** under Article 311 (2) are Article 311 (2) (a), Article 311 (2) (b) and Article 311 (2) (c)
 1. Article 311 (2) (a) - Where a person is dismissed or removed or reduced in rank on the ground of conduct which has led to his conviction on a criminal charge; or
 2. Article 311 (2) (b) - Where the authority empowered to dismiss or remove a person or to reduce him in rank is satisfied that for some reason, to be recorded by that authority in writing, it is not reasonably practicable to hold such inquiry; or

Process of Departmental Enquiry

- In a departmental enquiry, after an enquiry officer is appointed, the civil servant is given a formal chargesheet of the charges.
- The civil servant can represent him/herself or choose to have a lawyer.
- Witnesses can be called during the departmental enquiry following which the enquiry officer can prepare a report and submit it to the government for further action.