

# Can We Dispense With Multi Party System At Centre?

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**Abstract:** Initially there was single party system in India. But with the passage of time, it changed into multi party system. The ambition to form separate party, the ideological differences giving rise to formation of new parties, the pressure groups converting themselves into political parties, etc are the causes behind this change. In multi party system, there are polarisation of votes, unstability and the winner does not represent the majority. Only two national parties with percentage of voting more than 90%, will give reliable picture. Hence the conditions laid down in the definition of national party should be changed in such a way that very few political parties would be declared as national parties. These declared two national parties will go for central election. This election onwards, there is scope given to state parties for being declared as national parties provided that they fulfil some conditions.

**Keywords:** Single party system, ambition, ideological differences, pressure groups, multi party system, polarisation of votes, definition of national party, state parties.

## Main Text:-

The single party system was prevalent in India after independence. In fact, many political parties were then existing but one party was dominant. This party went on to dominate the political field for many years. Meanwhile the other political parties got their roots fixed in the political field. Generally in any party one famous and influentive personality is there around whom the party revolves. He influences all the decisions taken by party. In election campaigning, he is projected as main leader. This leader has got influence because he possesses one of the qualities like he may be senior, experienced leader or he may have oratorical skills or revolutionary ideas, etc. If the party of this influentive leader comes to power then he retains main ministry for himself. His other accomplices in the party are allotted subsidiary ministries. If any of these accomplices is ambitious, wants the supreme position in the party then he feels being ignored and suppressed. He then starts thinking of forming new party. Thus ambition factor gives birth to political party. Apart from this there are other causes behind formation of political parties. In a political party it is quite possible that there can be another group having different ideology yet loosely bound to main political party, which at times, get separated from parent party forming itself into new political party. There are some pressure groups especially promoting a particular goal and putting pressure on existing political parties to achieve this goal. With the passage of time these pressure groups although non-political, are sometimes tempted to enter political arena converting itself into a full fledged political party. In our country, initially the political parties were formed as there were ideological differences among different groups. Later the political parties were formed but the basis was ambition. All the ideologies have been used and there was no scope for difference in them. In fact newly formed political party has got ideology much similar to that of the parent party. The differences between them were petty. Now a days the political parties are formed from pressure groups. The combined result of that was there are now many political parties visible on the political arena. Thus the single party system is changed into the multi party system. In future, it is quite possible that more number of pressure groups may turn themselves into political parties or the ambition factor may give birth to still new parties thereby making the existent multi party system still chaotic. The good basis for formation of political party is the difference in ideology. But in our country, with the exception of some previous years, political parties were generally not formed because of differences in ideologies. In fact, in our country, the functioning of newly formed political parties is not based on ideology. With the addition of newly formed political parties, ideologically similar to their respective parent parties, to the political arena of our country, the situation got worsened. The voters now have so many options of political parties in front of them to choose from and this act of choosing still becomes difficult as they hardly notice any difference among them. India is having diversified elements and every element has its own demands, which it wants to get fulfilled. All the elements think that now a days by putting pressure on existing political parties to get those demands fulfilled has not been that effective. Instead they want to plunge into political field, pamper their voters, contest and win the elections and finally enter the decision making legislative bodies, the platform where they suppose, they can rather easily get those demands fulfilled. In this way, if many number of political parties representing different elements, go for election, there would be polarisation of votes. The more the number of political parties the more would be the candidates contesting election. If many political parties are contesting a certain election then the polled votes are divided amongst all these political parties. The winner in this case generally wins by very thin margin and does not represent the majority. It is justified by taking following hypothetical example.

Suppose A, B, C, D, E & F were the six candidates representing different political parties contested certain election. The percentage of total voting came to be 60 %. The following was the percentage of votes acquired by every candidate.

Name of the candidate	Acquired votes in %
A	12
B	08
C	11
D	10
E	9
F	10

'A' is the winner acquiring only 12 % votes but he is rejected by 48 % voters while 40 % voters haven't expressed about his candidature. 'A' does not represent the majority of voters. Although 'C' is loser, he loses by very close margin. Here the voters got six options to choose from. The votes are spread out amongst these six options leaving very close margins among them. Had there been two political parties only two candidates would have contested election and polled votes would have been distributed between these two candidates. It would have been better picture. Only two political parties with percentage of voting more than 90% will give very reliable picture.

If multi party system is prevalent then it is likely that the winner may not represent the majority of voters in majority of constituencies in the country. It is also likely that in different constituencies candidates belonging to different political parties would win. It becomes difficult for a single party to gain majority. To come to power, the alliance is formed. The political parties, which fought against one another before election, try to form alliance after election with a view to get to power. This is particularly not good for central election as it imparts instability to the government. Hence at least at centre only two political parties with percentage of voting more than 90 % will give very reliable picture and hence impart stability. The number of political parties i.e., national parties should be restricted to two. Only national parties should be allowed to send the candidates for central election. No independent candidate or one of any state or regional party should contest central election. The conditions laid down in the definition of national party should be changed in such a way that very few political parties would be declared as national parties.

A political party shall be eligible to be recognised as a national party if :-

- (i) it secures at least six percent(6%) of the valid votes polled in any four or more states, at a general election to the House of the People or, to the State Legislative Assembly; and
- (ii) in addition, it wins at least four seats in the House of the People from any State or States.

OR

it wins at least two percent (2%) seats in the House of the People (i.e., 11 seats in the existing House having 543 members), and these members are elected from at least three different States.

OR

It is recognised as a state party in at least four states.

There are 7 national parties at present. The following is the analysis of the result of Central Election 2014.

Sr. No.	Name of the national party	Lok Sabha seats won by the party	Percentage of total votes secured
1	Bharatiya Janata Party	282	31.34
2	Indian National Congress	44	19.52
3	Trinamool Congress	34	3.84
4	Communist Party of India(M)	9	3.25
5	Nationalist Congress Party	6	1.56
6	Communist Party of India	1	0.78
7	Bahujan Samaj Party	0	4.14

For any party to be recognised as national party, it should have sufficient representation in the Lok Sabha which is representative body of the entire nation. Also it should secure sufficient percentage of total votes. Some national parties have secured less than 10 % of total votes still they boast of themselves as national parties.

If it is unanimously decided to adopt two party system then for the first time, the votes secured and seats won in the House of People by all political parties in previous central election are considered so as to identify two parties among them to be national parties. To restrict the number of national parties to two, the following condition is applied.

In previous central election out of all the parties, two parties, which have secured 15% or more of total votes and have won 10% or more of seats (excluding Anglo-Indians) in the House of the People in at least 1/3 rd of total states, are recognised as national parties for the next election.

If only one party fulfils above condition, then this would be the first national party and out of the remaining parties, the party, which has won maximum seats (excluding Anglo-Indians) in the House of the People, is recognised as second national party.

If no party fulfils above condition, then the first two parties, which have won maximum seats (excluding Anglo-Indians) in the House of the People, are recognised as national parties.

If more than two parties fulfil above condition, then out of these parties, the first two parties which have won maximum seats (excluding Anglo-Indians) in the House of the People, are recognised as national parties.

The two parties so recognised as national parties, will go for the election. It is likely that one of the parties will gain majority and come to power. The chances of unstable government are the least.

The party will probably remain in power for the entire term i.e., upto the next election. Now from this election onwards, for the parties to be recognised as national parties, the performance not only of current national parties but also of state parties in the state legislative assembly elections, is considered. There is no change in the definition of state party.

The first two parties which secure 15% or more of total votes polled and win 10% or more seats collectively in recent legislative assembly elections of all the states, are recognised as national parties. These legislative assembly elections of all the states may be held at different times. The legislative assembly elections of all the states can be held at the same time before the central election as this will save money and time, and the performance of all the parties will rather easily be considered to identify two national parties.

If only one party fulfils above condition, then this would be the first national party and out of the remaining all parties from all states, the party, which has won maximum seats collectively in recent legislative assembly elections of all the states, is recognised as second national party.

If no party fulfils above condition, then the first two parties, which have won maximum seats collectively in recent legislative assembly elections of all the states, are recognised as national parties.

If more than two parties fulfil above condition, then out of these parties, the first two parties which have won maximum seats collectively in recent legislative assembly elections of all the states, are recognised as national parties. This method of recognition of two national parties will continue for further elections. Thus two party system can be maintained.

#### **Conclusion:-**

The definition of national party should be changed in such a way that there would be only two national parties all the time. Only national parties will contest the central election. Two party system will then be established. The time and money can then be saved.

#### **References**

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