

The Attitude of Intellectuals of District Kulgam (J & K) towards Parliamentary Practices in India

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Abstract

Parliamentary form of government has become the most desirable mode of governance throughout the world. But the efficacy of parliaments in providing effective governance is not up to satisfaction in many democracies. India is the only country in the developing world where parliamentary democracy has survived. Therefore it is interesting to know how parliament works and tries to carry out its duties so that it can be an effective instrument of democracy. The present research study was proposed to study the attitude of intellectuals of J&K towards parliamentary practices in India. The study has based its analysis on primary data from intellectuals. The observations are based on surveys and interview, while performing the field work through questionnaire. For this, Kulgam district of J&K was selected using stratified sampling method. Sample consists of 100 intellectuals. It is found that the working of Indian parliament, its proceedings and practice has declined due to daily adjournments and walkouts. Also the number of politicians with criminal background has increased to a large extent. Government and their ministers should realize that it is their own advantage to consider parliamentary debates, scrutiny and criticism as props of genuine democracy in their efforts to steer, guide, lead and control the administration.

Keywords: Intellectuals, Parliamentary Practices, Attitude, Jammu and Kashmir, India

Introduction

“India has received an inheritance from the period of British rule; she has taken full possession of it to her own needs. The ‘experiment’ and working of the parliamentary institutions are more firmly established in the way of life of the Indian people than they are in that of many a country in Europe.” The above statement of W. H. Morris Jones is a fine illustration or eulogy of the existence and efficient working parliamentary institution in the Indian soil. Thus India has adopted the west ministerial model of parliamentary form of government where the union legislature is called by the constitution as the parliament. Parliament is the name given by the constitution to the union legislature and it consists of the president and two houses known respectively as the council of states and the house of the people. The president is a constituent part of parliament just as the monarch is in Britain. But the American President is not a constituent part of congress. The constitution of United States provides, "all legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in the Congress of United States, which shall consist of a senate and a house of representatives". However there are certain challenges before Indian parliament. India is in a shamble, inflation is wreaking havoc on people. Illiteracy and unemployment are at such appalling heights that life has lost meaning and content. Education is a distant dream for the children. People are dying out of hunger, getting killed by either terrorists or their own police force when they ask for their rights. Neo-liberalism has made the rich more rich while pushing the poor further in the dungeons of poverty and deprivation. Tribal's have been robbed of their traditional habitats in the name of mining and peasants have been deprived of their lands in the name of developmental projects. The farmers have been pushed to the wall and they have nothing to resort to except suicides. Not only this the increasing level of ministers with criminal background, misconduct of ministers, continuous boycott by opposition, deluge of scams, passing of bills without debate are the new challenges before Indian parliament.

Objectives

The present Study has been undertaken with the following objectives:-

1. To find the attitude of intellectuals towards parliamentary practices in India
2. To examine the presence of criminals in politics has affected the working of parliament and resulted in various scams.
3. To identify whether the incidents of indiscipline are increasing.

Research methodology

In the present study survey (interview of experienced people & literature review) are used for collecting information. The aim of the experience survey is to obtain insight into the problem or into the relationships between variables and to get an accurate picture of current practice by interviewing the experienced people the researcher also had to take help from intellectuals towards parliamentary practices in India. The present study is based on systematic stratified sampling and then using simple random method. In the study 100 intellectuals are

selected by stratified sampling and made 5 strata then from each strata chose 20 intellectuals by sample random sampling of district Kulgam. The selected groups under study are:-

- (1) Doctors (2) Engineers (3) Lecturers (4) Journalists (5) Lawyers

Results : 1. Working procedure of parliament

In India the union legislature is called by the constitution as the parliament, and constitution has set certain rules and procedures to guide the working of parliament or parliamentary institutions so that it can work smoothly and efficiently. The roots of parliamentary system lies in the democratic ideal and they have to be fostered outside the confines of parliament and among the masses of people.

Table No. 1.1

S.No.	Response	No. of Respondents	%age
1.	No	48	48%
2.	Yes	14	14%
3.	To some extent	38	38%
4.	No answer	-	-

Source: survey data

Table- 1.1, gives the detail of intellectuals of district Kulgam regarding their satisfaction with the working procedure of parliament. The table shows that 48% respondents are not satisfied with the working procedure of parliament, 14% say yes they are satisfied and 38% respondents are satisfied to some extent.

2. Phenomena of coalition government has affected the working of parliament

The system of forming and running a collective government is usually described as coalition government. Coalition politics has tendered to make the working of the Indian political system in general and the parliamentary system of governance in particular more complex problematic and even fluid. Question was posed to see the impact of coalition government on the working of parliament.

Table No. 1.2

S.No.	Response	No. of Respondents	%age
1.	No	10	10%
2.	Yes	56	56%
3.	To some extent	24	24%
4.	No answer	10	10%
	Total	100	100%

Source: survey data

Coalition Govt. is the better representation of the electorate's wishes and better quality of policy: enhanced scrutiny and increased attention paid to each policy. But the table indicates that 56% respondents agree that the phenomena of coalition government has affected the working of parliament, 10% say no, 24% say to some extent and 10% say no answer.

3. Tactics of opposition are breaking down constitutional machinery

Opposition acts as a watchdog of the ruling party. Holding the ruling party accountable to the public is the prime focus of opposition. Instead of being completely critical of the party in power, the opposition puts check on excesses.

Table No. 1.3

S.No.	Options	No. of Respondents	%age
1.	No	6	6%
2.	Yes	52	52%
3.	To some extent	30	30%
4.	No answer	12	12%
	Total	100	100%

Source: survey data

It is the responsibility of opposition to make sure that governments decisions don't have negative implications on the countries overall development. The survey conducted reveals that among 100 respondents 52% agree that the tactics of opposition are breaking down constitutional machinery, 6% say No, 30% say to some extent and remaining 12% give no answer.

4. Opposition is using boycott as a tool, to fulfill their political interests

The opposition's main role is to question the government of the day and hold them accountable to the public. Opposition is equally responsible in upholding the best interests of the people of country but for quite some time

it has been asked the opposition is not playing its role well as it should play

Table No. 1.4

S.No.	Options	No. of Respondents	%age
1.	No	16	16%
2.	Yes	62	62%
3.	To some extent	20	20%
4.	No answer	2	2%
	Total	100	100%

Source: survey data

Present table shows 62% respondents think that opposition is using boycott as a tool to fulfill their political interests, 16% say no, 20% say to some extent, 2% didn't give any answer.

Among 100 respondents, 62% think that the continue boycott in Parliament will affect the coming budget session, 14% say no, 20% say to some extent and 4% did not give any answer. According to the report of the comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), which went into the allegations on 2G Spectrum allocations. The national loss of the exchequer on account of manipulations and transgressions amounted to whopping Rs. 1.76 lakh core.

5. The incidents of indiscipline in parliament are increasing because of

From a decade the incidents of indiscipline are increasing in parliament, throwing of chairs, filthy language, unnecessary walkouts etc has become routine of parliament that is why the question is being posed to know who is responsible for the disfunctioning of parliament, Govt., Opposition or any other

Table No. 1.5

S.No.	Options	No. of Respondents	%age
1.	Coalition	8	8%
2.	Opposition	30	30%
3.	Corruption	42	42%
4.	Any other	10	10%
5.	No answer	10	10%
	Total	100	100%

Source: survey data

Among 100 respondents 42% respondents believe that in parliament the incidents of indiscipline are increasing because of corruption, 30% say it is because of opposition, 8% believe it is because of coalition, 10% say any other reason will be there due to which the incidents of indiscipline are increasing and 10% respondents have no answer.

6. In the parliament the members with criminal records are increasing

In December 2010 the parliament does not work due to the corruption scandals and opposition boycotts during parliament sessions. Parliament did not work for 27 days, which developed seriousness among the people of country, moreover it was said it is due to criminalization of politics.

Table No. 1.6

S.No.	Options	No. of Respondents	%age
1.	No	6	6%
2.	Yes	70	70%
3.	To some extent	22	22%
4.	No answer	2	2%
	Total	100	100%

Source: survey data

The persons with criminal records are flocking in the parliament because the political parties give ticket to the notorious persons in order to remain in power. The table indicates that 70% respondents agree that in parliament the members with criminal records are increasing, 6% say No, 22% say to some extent and 2% respondents have no answer.

7. Presence of criminals in politics has affected the working of parliament and resulted in various scams

For the last couple of years in the Indian political system a deluge of scandals have been witnessed, like 2G Spectrum Scam, which resulted the loss of 176.379 crore rupees to the national exchequer, Adarsh housing society scam, commonwealth games scandal, satyam scandal, Ketan Parekh Scandal, Barak Missile Deal Scandal, Tehalka Scandal etc. resulting in the decline of working of parliament.

Table No. 1.7

S.No.	Options	No. of Respondents	%age
1.	No	4	4%
2.	Yes	76	76%
3.	To some extent	18	18%
4.	No answer	2	2%
	Total	100	100%

Source: survey data

The table indicates that 76% respondents think that the presence of criminals in politics has affected the working of parliament, 4% say no, 18% say to some extent and 2% says no answer.

8. Persons with criminal records be denied from contesting elections by

From a decade it is evident that the presence of criminals has increased in Indian politics and government wants to check the presence of criminals in politics. Different efforts were also taken in this regard. Here the purpose for posing such question is to know which government organ will be efficient in preventing criminalization of politics

Table No. 1.8

S.No.	Options	No. of Respondents	%age
1.	By Legislation	18	18%
2.	Judicial Intervention	30	30%
3.	Political parties should not give ticket to candidates with criminal records	50	50%
4.	No answer	2	2%
	Total	100	100%

Source: survey data

Among 50 respondents 50% think that political parties should not give ticket to candidates with criminal records, 18% say by legislation, 30% say by judicial intervention, 2% say no answer.

One important way to check the presence of criminals in politics is to make people aware about it and restraining the persons with criminal records to contest elections.

9. Central government is taking enough action against the corrupt ministers

After Independence there was a pressing need to strengthen the needs of the state, establish high norms of political morality, and make no exceptions in the punishing the culprit. There are a few failings for which India has paid so heavy a price as his tolerance of corruption among his colleagues and party men

Table No. 1.9

S.No.	Options	No. of Respondents	%age
1.	No	38	38%
2.	Yes	34	34%
3.	To some extent	28	28%
4.	No answer	-	-
	Total	100	100%

Source: survey data

Looking at the number of agencies created to tackle corruption, it is apparent that the government has been keen to eradicate this malady. But the survey conducted reveals that 38% respondents say no the central govt. is not taking enough action against corrupt ministers, 34% respondents say yes and 28% respondents say to some extent.

10. Only educated persons should be given ticket to contest election

Education plays an important role in the development of society, it is said that if the destiny of the country is to be changed the young and educated has to take the responsibility.

Table No. 2.0

S.No.	Options	No. of Respondents	%age
1.	No	2	2%
2.	Yes	80	80%
3.	To some extent	18	18%
4.	No answer	-	-
	Total	100	100%

Source: survey data

Above table shows that majority of the respondents believe that only educated persons should be given ticket to contest elections i.e. 80% respondents, 2% say no and 18% respondents say to some extent.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Parliament of India, representing as it does all constitutionally organized shades of public opinion at the national level, occupies a pre-eminent and central position in Indian polity. It embodies and epitomizes the "sovereign will" of the people; it is the mirror and the voice of the nation. To quote Jawaharlal Nehru who said: "Parliament today has become the supreme temple of democracy and freedom, an institution of great importance in our national life, the only guarantee against tyranny and bad administration. India is one of the developing country where parliamentary democracy has survived despite a number of challenges. There has however been in recent years decline in working of Indian parliament. Its proceedings and practice has also declined due to daily adjournments, walkouts and presence of criminals in politics. For the last couple of years in the Indian political system a deluge of scandals have been witnessed, like 2G Spectrum Scam, Adarsh housing society scam, commonwealth games scandal, satyam scandal, Ketan Parekh Scandal, Barak Missile Deal Scandal, Tehalka Scandal etc. resulting in the decline of working of parliament and a heavy loss to national exchequer.

If democracy and freedom are to endure, if working of parliament is made better it is essential to check the presence of criminals in politics, Attendance of members be made regular, Check the misbehavior of ministers, Education and empowerment of voters, Parliamentary reforms, political party reforms, electoral reforms, judicial reforms etc. should be taken collectively for effective working of parliament.

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