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A CRITICAL ANALYSIS ON RESPONSIBILITIES OF POLITICAL PARTIES TOWARDS ELECTION MANIFESTO

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ABSTRACT

India is biggest democratic country in the world and to give reality and content to the democratic ideals propounded in the Preamble the constitution establishes parliamentary of government both at the centre and the states. In any democratic system of government political parties occupy a distinct and unique place. It is through them that the generality of people attempt to voice and ventilate their grievance. It is true that till recently the constitution did not expressly refer to the existence of political parties. But their existence is implicit in the nature of democratic form of Government which over country has adopted, the political parties has to be there if the present system of government is to succeed. In the Parliamentary form of government there is a popularly elected body enjoying the confidence of people on the basis an “election manifesto” which contains policies and programmes of the Political parties taking election manifesto into consideration the people vote in favour of the party. After returning the power every effect has to be made by Political executive. Election Manifesto is a assurance of Political parties. It belongs social justice, economic justice and Political justice to the public, the responsibility of political parties is that, they have to execute policies as said in election manifesto. Political parties has responsibility that election manifesto has to be in reality and not gives any fake promises by parties to the public at large for example some parties says in their election manifesto that they give 1 Kg Rice for 1 Rupees, and Indian black Money take back into the India from Swiss Bank, like this election manifesto builds fake dreams in the public. Political parties are going to making government of their parties and they have to responsible to give justice to public as they take confidence by election manifesto. Election manifesto can be play important role in the election, but the responsibilities of Political parties towards election manifesto became nil, but no laws says about responsibility towards election manifesto of political parties, but it is necessary in biggest democratic and parliamentary form of the Government Country like India. There has to be a law says about how election manifesto is to be there, Rules and Regulations towards election manifesto followed by the Political parties and how can be they responsible in law towards election manifesto. How the changes are made by election commission from ballot papers to electronic voting machines like that changes has to be made also in election manifesto.

KEYWORDS

Political parties and Election manifesto.

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INTRODUCTION

India is a biggest democratic country in the world. To give reality and content to the democratic ideals propounded in the preamble the constitution establishes parliamentary form of government both

at the central and states. In any democratic system of government political parties occupy a distinct and unique place. Political parties has to be there, if the present system of the government is to succeed. There is popularly elected body enjoying the confidence of people on the basis of an election manifesto which contains the policies and programmes of the political parties taking election manifesto consideration, the people vote in favour of the party, after returning the power every efforts has to be made by political executive.

Substantively, it is all about the issues that parties emphasis and the positions they take where there is more to be found in party manifestos than salience and positions. But it is not all clear what manifestos actually or that is, manifestos positions regardless of their measurement relate to post election politics. For instance distinguishes between ideal policy positions, stated policy positions and policy forecasts. Similarly cease manifestos as either rather abstract statements of parties identities and philosophies, party advertising or contracts between parties and voters.

RELATION BETWEEN POLITICAL PARTIES AND ELECTION MANIFESTO

The political parties and elections manifestos are co-related with each other. Without election manifesto a political party did not contest in the elections, but the manifesto is a just document made by the political parties to give information of parties position and policies to the public. Political parties are indispensable for the working of modern democratic governments. The importance of political parties lies in the fact that democracies cannot function without the existence of political parties. A political party consist of a group of like minded people who work together as a unit to influence the general public, contest elections to gain control over the government. Members of the same political party share a common goal, aims and objectives. Different political parties compete with each other with a view to influence the public policies and opinion with their philosophies. It is through them that the generality of people attempt to voice and ventilate their grievance, it is true that till recently the

constitution did not expressly refer to the existence of political parties, but their existence in implicit in the nature of democratic form of government which out country has adopted.

Election manifesto is assurance of political parties. It belongs social justice, economic justice and political justice to the public. According to the oxford dictionary, a manifesto refers to "A public declaration or proclamation, written or spoken or a printed explanation or justification of policy issued by a political party or a candidate". Whenever a nation goes to elections, a lot of efforts put into campaigning. An essential part of campaigning is the use of the manifesto to outline in detail, The vision and ideals of political party. Election manifesto play vital role wins in election and it is influenced other than the candidate of party. We can see in how national parties are dominant other than the candidate, individual character will not be taken into account other than the election manifesto and political parties.

FUNCTIONS OF THE ELECTION MANIFESTO

Manifestos are strategic documents written by politically sophisticated party elites with many different objectives in mind, we can distinguish the functions that a manifesto can serve, provide a compendium of valid party positions, establish supremacy over all other policies positions, that may be attributed to the party and thereby steam line the parties campaign and use as a campaign tool to directly inform voters. It can provide the mass media with input for their reporting and it can be a useful tool for party candidates and activists. A document that provides economic access to how their party sees the real world and their resulting blue prints or guidelines for policy change, is certainly advantageous for those who are responsible for spreading the party message to the people in face to face contacts in constituency. The manifesto should not only establish supremacy over alternative party documents as a contract with the voters, but also must define the parties position when there are different position on any given issue within the party, if such intra-party tensions exists, to which all

sides in the internal debate conform during the campaign any great divergence from the line taken by the majority candidates will be noted by, amongst others, opposing candidates who will make capital out of this sign of dissention. The candidates understand that departing from the party line will damage them collectively, this function of the manifesto is the more important, the more incentives candidates have to seek a personal vote. Some political parties not bringing out its manifesto until the beginning of the elections are concerned, because of the effect of manifestos or that matters are contained in the document can be modulated or copied by the other party, but also ideals and policies are different in parties, but the object of the political parties to win the election or governing by their parties are same. The electoral manifesto, probing into the candidates, reading of the document and its importance in the campaign. The following statements some in the form of negations aimed to elicit responses on election manifesto.

- The election manifesto is an important source of information for candidates on the positions of their own party.
- The election manifesto is just one of many sets of political statements of a party during the campaign and has no particular significance.
- The election manifesto is a summary of valid party positions, from which candidates must not deviate.
- The election manifesto is a well suited to be distributed directly to voters.
- Publishing the election manifesto is a compulsory exercise, but it is not particularly useful for the campaign.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF POLITICAL PARTIES TOWARDS ELECTION MANIFESTO

Ideas of democracy are embodied in accountability. A manifesto hence serves as an important benchmark for analyzing the performance of a government and ensuring its accountability to the electorate with regards to the policies and promises envisioned in the document. Manifesto have since time

immemorial been a very essential documents of political organization as meaningful sources of information and data pertaining a party's stance on a wide range of developmental issues. It would be prudent to remember though that an effort to acquire power, manifestos can often be contain laudatory ideals and unrealistic agendas. The boundaries between polity and national aspirations are becoming blurry in many of the manifestos being published. A manifesto is the significant trust worthy of consideration in a democratic dispensation. However it is reasonable to state that when agendas for development are colored in political hues, it becomes tough for succeeding governments to seek validations of their motives by using the ideals enshrined in a document even the issues raised had an over reaching theme of national importance.

Advertising makes you buy things you do not need, we have all heard of the statement, but what about manifestos of political parties? Are they any different from advertisement? Because some political parties have matters in manifesto, like offers to the voters to give some things or facilities by the government. They influenced on the voter by offering. Political parties are giving just false promises like in Tamil Nadu elections, some political parties are saying in their manifesto that they will give television to every voter of that constituency, after the election no voter got any TV's, but what about this fake promises made by the political parties. Thus the political parties have moral responsibility towards public they have to fulfill their promises made in manifestos. Otherwise those manifestos became fake advertisement by political parties till winning the elections. The political parties have to act the responsible organized persons they have to take in mind that the public will not give another chance in next time. India is a democratic and republic country, the representatives are elected by the people they have to work for the people, they have to responsible what they are made promises in elections. Some political parties are give promises in just generality they don't want to give specific ideas or promises to problems of each constituency. That each constituency has its own problems, but national political parties promises for whole India, like if we

come to power we will ensure goods roads, safety for women, faster delivery of services, employment for people, but what about their performance. The parties have to give promises or performance for every specific constituency because of every constituency has its own problems and different. Then the candidate will give justice to his duty, constituency and his people. The manifesto has to be in a specific manner to every constituency; it is responsibility of every political party towards election manifesto different manifesto has to be done. Political parties to win the election they use way of shortcuts to giving promises of short time issues for example, we will reduce prices of vegetable or dals, otherwise they will give free rice and dal for poor people, we can call “Annabaghya” plan in Karnataka. Like this they concentrates only for short time problems but they never gives promises for employment, enhancing of agricultural products or any security for the labours like family securities or financial help for them. They are long term issues they have to rise in election manifesto and implemented by the political parties after getting power. This is the responsibility of political parties. Some election manifestos made promises that we will give some reservations for some communities, will give funds for temple (Dattidhana), funds for mosques and church, otherwise we will consider them minorities and giving special status or giving facilities by the government, like they give assurance to the public. But this manifestos creates differences between communities, then it is resulting communal violence between religions. India is a secular country and preamble of constitution of India envisage secularism, it is the duty of every citizen to respect our constitutional ideas and objectives, but what political parties are doing? Whether they don't have any duties? This is the responsibility of every political parties, manifesto has to be in a good manner and it has also serve conscious about our constitution.

The purpose of election manifesto is promotion of policy and ideas of political parties, that party has to win the election. Getting trust of voters through the election manifesto is the matter of political parties, but the trust of the voter should be sought only on

those promises which are possible to be fulfilled. Otherwise it is just carrying a fake assurance to sought the voter trust, political parties responsibility is to maintain moral duty towards public. Election manifesto is an important source of information for public on the parties policy position. Manifesto develops trust between public or voter and political party. Manifesto has said that it has to give justice social, economic and political by the promises made in. It is a responsibility of political parties to execute that only. Political parties has responsibility that election manifesto has to be in reality and not gives any fake promises by parties to the public at large. Because some parties say in their election manifesto that Indian black money will be taken back into the India from Swiss Bank and Ram Mandir will be build in U.P., it is a statement by the party from long time, they are surviving on these statements by long time, like this election manifesto builds fake dreams in the public. Political parties are going to making government of their parties and they have to responsible to give justice to the public as well as himself also as they take confidence by election manifesto.

Election Manifesto can be play important role in elections but the responsibility of the political parties towards manifesto became nil, but no laws says about responsibility towards election manifesto of political parties, but it is necessary in biggest democratic and parliamentary form of government country like India, there has to be a “Law” says about, “How election manifesto is to be there and rules, regulations and conditions makes for election manifesto, followed by the political parties, how can be they responsible in law towards election manifesto. It has to be done by the government otherwise public will be awared by the same fake promises made by the political parties through the election manifesto. Lastly people are responsible for their own representatives who are elected by them only.

GUIDELINES ON ELECTION MANIFESTO BY ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA

Some Guidelines are made by the election commission of India in 2015 elections to the

President or General Secretary or Chair Person of all recognized national and state political parties on the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, the commission had after consultation with the political parties, framed guidelines for election manifesto and incorporated the same in the model code of conduct for the guidelines of the political parties and candidates. The commission has desired that whether a political party releases its manifesto for whichever election conducted by the commission a hard copy of the same along with a soft copy may be sent to the commission for its record, this may be done for the election conducted.

The Supreme Court of India in its Judgment dated 5th July 2013 S Subramanian Balaji V/s Government of Tamil Nadu and others, has directed the election commission to frame guidelines with regard to the contents of elections manifesto in consultation with all the recognized political parties the guiding principles which will lead to framing of such guidelines are quoted below from the judgment.

1. All though the law is obvious that the promises in the election manifesto cannot be construed as corrupt practice under section 123 of RP Act, the reality cannot be ruled out the distribution of freebies of any kind, undoubtedly influences all people. It shakes the route of free and fair elections to a large degree.
2. The election commission in order to ensure level playing field between the contesting parties and candidates in elections and also in order to see that the purity of the election process does not get vitiated as in past been issuing instructions under model code of conduct. The fountain head of the powers under which the commission issues these order in Article 324 of the Constitution which mandates the commission to whole free and fair elections.
3. We are mindful of the fact that generally political party realize their election manifesto before the announcement of election date in that scenario strictly speaking, the election commission will not have the authority to regulate any act which is done before the

announcement of their date. Nevertheless, an exception can be made in this regard as the purpose of election manifesto is directly associated with the election process.

Upon receiving the above directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, the election commission held a meeting with recognized national and state political parties for consultation with them in the matter and took note of their conflicting views in the matter.

During consultation, while some political parties supported the issuance of such guidelines, others were of the view that it is their right and duty towards voters to make such offers and promises in manifesto in a healthy democratic polity. While the commission agrees in principle with the point of view that framing of manifesto is the right of the political parties, it cannot over looked the undesirable impact of some of the promises and offers on the conduct of free and fair elections and maintaining level playing field for all political parties and candidates.

The Constitution under Article 324 mandates the election commission, to conduct elections inter-alia to the parliament and State Legislatures. Having due regard to the above directions of the Supreme Court and after consultation with the political parties, the commission, in the interest of free and fair elections, hereby directs that political parties and candidates while releasing election manifesto for any election to the parliament or State Legislatures, shall adhere to the following guidelines.

1. The election manifesto shall not contain any thing repugnant to the ideals and principles enshrined in the constitution and further that it shall be consistent with the letter and spirit of other provisions of model code of conduct.
2. The directive principles of state policy enshrined in the constitution enjoin upon the state to frame various welfare measures for the citizens and therefore there can be no objection to the promise of such welfare measures in election manifestos. However political parties should avoid making those promises which are likely to vitiate the purity of the election process or exert undue

influence on the voters in exercising their franchise.

3. In the interest of transparency, level playing field and credibility of promises, it is expected that manifestos also reflect the rational for the promises and broadly indicate the ways and means to meet the financial requirements for it. Trust of voters should be sought only on those promises which are possible to be fulfilled.

CONCLUSION

We are in a representative democracy rather than a direct one, meaning we can only choose people who will take decision on our behalf, but there is no law stopping us from influencing their decision. In fact it is both right and duty to make them aware of our legitimate views and demands thus political parties have to take responsibility of implementation of legitimate demands of people, the manifesto has to be in that manner only. The election commission of India also takes steps for responsibility of political parties towards election manifesto by the enacting laws. People Representatives Act also inserted some other rules, conditions in which manner manifesto has to be done, without any infringement of freedom of political parties. How changes are made by the election commission of India from the ballot papers to electronic voting machines, like that changes has to be made in the election manifesto.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

We declare that we have no conflict of interest.

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