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ONE NATION ONE ELECTION

Introduction-:

India is one of the largest democracies in the world. India has nearly 900 million active voters at present. The Constitution of India provides the Election Commission power to conduct free and free election. Election Commission conducts elections for Lok Sabha (the lower house of the parliament), Rajya Sabha (the upper house of the parliament), the state legislative assemblies, for local self-government bodies, and it also conducts elections for the offices of President and the Vice President in India. It is a constitutional body which administers the union and state election in India. In the recent times there is a lot of debate is going on the electoral process in India. The blog aims to understand the concept of the “ONE NATION ONE ELECTION” more effectively and will try to figure out its possible pros and cons.

What is one nation one election?

One nation one election refers to a situation where the election for union and the state will be held at the same time. The idea of simultaneous elections has been proposed to minimize the state expenditures on the elections and for proper implementation of welfare and development schemes. It means that people will choose their representatives to the union and the state legislative assemblies at the same time.

Provisions in the Constitution-:

The article 83(2) of the Indian constitution says that the Lok Sabha shall continue for five years from the time of its first meeting; if it was not dissolved by the president before the completion of its tenure as provided under article 82(3). The article 83(2) gives power to the president of India to dissolve the Lok Sabha before the completion of its tenure if he feels that the that a situation has

emerged in which the functions of the government can't be carried out in accordance with provisions of the constitution. Similarly, article 172(1) provides five-year tenure for state assemblies from the date of their first meeting and article 174(2)(b) provides the power to governor that he can dissolve the state assembly before the completion of its tenure. Based on the above provisions it can be said that the implementation of the concept of the is tough since it requires extensive amendments in the constitution.

Pros and Cons of the one nation one election

Pros-:

1. Having one nation and one election will lessen the economic burden on the state. At present India has almost 900 million active voters and frequent elections in the country put a lot of monetary burden on the country. The election commission mentioned that expenditure in 2019 Lok Sabha was nearly 15,000 crore rupees and expenses of conducting election for state assemblies' ranges between 300-1000 crore rupees depending on the size of the state. If India adopts one nation one election policy than all this monetary burden on the state can be reduced. It is estimated if one nation one election policy is implemented then the election expenditures can be reduced by 25-40% in India.

2.If the phenomenon of the simultaneous elections is adopted in India it will help in having time for more focused governance. Right now, India doesn't follow the one nation one election policy due to this one or other state have elections now and then. Due to this the state governments are always distracted by this and all the policies which they adopt are mostly election driven, So, if we adopt the policy of simultaneous elections the state governments will have more time to draft the social welfare driven policy rather than promoting their own political agendas through these policies.

3.The political parties spend a lot of money in their election campaigns due to frequent elections. They run ad campaigns for union, state and local elections separately. If we adopt the policy of simultaneous elections, then the expenses of political parties on their political campaigns through print and electronic media can be reduced significantly.

4. The frequent elections in the country cause a lot of voter fatigue. The adoption of a one nation one election policy will lessen voter fatigue as it will make the election process easier, efficient and less time consuming.

Cons-:

1. Adoption of simultaneous elections will lead to the domination of national issues over the regional issues. The national political parties benefit from national issues, it will sideline the local issues and the regional political parties will not get any space to present their ideologies to the masses.
2. Under the current model of elections, the voters can show their dissatisfaction towards the state governments by not voting for them in the state elections but if both Centre and State elections are held simultaneously there are more chances that it will be influenced. For e.g. If the center government is working effectively has been formulating policies for welfare and development of the country and on the other hand the state government is not or vice versa, it is going to affect the election outcome.
3. The simultaneous elections take away the privilege of voters to show their dissatisfaction against the non-performing governments by not voting in their favor through frequent elections.
4. If the elections are only held once in five years it will reduce the accountability of the government towards the masses. Frequent elections push the governments to perform well.

Conclusion-:

Introduction of the policy of one nation and one election is a very challenging task for India. The policy of one nation one election has its own pros and cons. To establish the one nation one election policy in India we need to have proper prior planning and implementation measures. The regional, cultural, geographical and political diversity of India must be kept in mind while formulating the policy for simultaneous elections in India. Many people are open-handedly ready to accept policy of simultaneous election while many others are also criticizing it openly.

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