



Role on parliamentary democracy of India

Kallepally Prashanth

Department of Political Science, Kakatiya University, Warangal, Telangana, India

Abstract

While parliamentary democracy in India, as a political ideal, is still exposed to hazards arising from the attitudes of certain political parties and criticisms from others, the mechanism of the system functioning through Parliament is being progressively perfected. The mechanism can be an important factor contributing to the success of the system, but it cannot be the sole factor. A parliamentary system is a system of democratic governance of a state in which the executive branch derives its democratic legitimacy from, and is held accountable to, the legislature (parliament); the executive and legislative branches are thus interconnected. In a parliamentary system, the head of state is normally a different person from the head of government. Parliament is becoming a more effective instrument for expressing public opinion and voicing public grievances. It is also becoming increasingly effective in restraining the executive and ensuring the latter's response and accountability to national sentiment and will, which finds expression in a broad manner in the House through elected representatives of organized political parties and others. This is in contrast to a presidential system in a democracy, where the head of state often is also the head of government, and most importantly, the executive branch does not derive its democratic legitimacy from the legislature.

Keywords: democracy, parliamentary, executive

Introduction

Countries with parliamentary systems may be constitutional monarchies, where a monarch is ceremonial head of state while the head of government is almost always a member of the legislature (such as the United Kingdom, Sweden and Japan), or parliamentary republics, where a mostly ceremonial president is the head of state while the head of government is regularly from the legislature (such as Ireland, Germany, Pakistan, India and Italy). In a few parliamentary republics, such as Botswana, South Africa and Suriname, as well as German states, the head of government is also head of state, but is elected by and is answerable to the legislature. A parliamentary system may be a bicameral system with two chambers of parliament (or houses): an elected lower house, and an upper house or Senate which may be appointed or elected by a different mechanism from the lower house. Another possibility is a unicameral system with just one parliamentary chamber.

The Parliamentary system can be contrasted with a presidential system which operates under a stricter separation of powers, whereby the executive does not form part of, nor is appointed by, the parliamentary or legislative body. In such a system, congresses do not select or dismiss heads of governments, and governments cannot request an early dissolution as may be the case for parliaments. There also exists the semi-presidential system that draws on both presidential systems and parliamentary systems by combining a powerful president with an executive responsible to parliament.

Parliamentary majority rules government in India has turned into a joke. For the legitimate working of parliamentary majority rule government numerous pre-requirements are required; till the pioneers are capable and aware of their obligations and receptive to the general assessment. A majority rule government itself won't be steady. However, it is all the more so on account of parliamentary vote based system in light of the fact that the Gathering of Clergymen ought to be dependable to the Parliament and ought to likewise think about the voice of individuals. Assuming they begin overlooking what individuals need the Public authority will become oppressive in its way of behaving. Additionally, Parliamentary majority rule government likewise requests that there ought to be two-party framework. In the event that there are numerous ideological groups they can hold hands and he in the greater part to frame their own Administration, after at some point, there might be some new arrangement and some other alliance Government might be shaped. All in all, there are sure standards of Parliamentary majority rules system.

Unfortunately, in India Parliamentary democracy seems to be; just in name the Ruling Party has so many majorities that it can get anything done so there is no check upon the Ruling Party. If the members of the opposition ask questions and try to embarrass the people in power by bringing some or the other facts to light they are ignored because their numerical strength is negligible. Moreover, opposition parties have no prominent leader who may be acceptable as an alternative to the leader of the majority party. The recent alignment of the different opposition parties has started showing, some serious cracks in it. Such an Opposition makes Parliamentary democracy just a farce.

The party whip is utilized so really on the grounds that the head of the. Greater part party lessens different pioneers to irrelevant spot. Because of it they are overwhelmed by one gathering of men. Such an association will undoubtedly become tyrannical and choice will be taken at the more significant level. The virtual working of the decision party becomes solid. This as opposed to the soul of parliamentary majority rule government, in light of the fact that the choices ought to be expansive based. One of the redeeming qualities is that numerous a period the Head of the state assembles a conference of the resistance groups to take a few significant choices. This assists the decision party with knowing the: various shades of assessments of the various classes of individuals and various areas. As a matter of fact significant choices in a majority rule arrangement and especially so when it is parliamentary vote based system ought to be taken by bringing every one of the gatherings into certainty. Another point which makes our parliamentary vote based system fairly virtuous is that the decision party isn't ready to direct its terms to the resistance and different areas of individuals. The soul of a majority rules system requests that there ought to be 'compromise'. The Head of the state has additionally removed the Maligning Bill in light of the fact that main the popular assessment was against it. Likewise he has as of late uncovered that he will assemble an all party conference to determine the Punjab issue.

Accountability of the Executive

One of the cardinal rights and privileges of Parliament is to enforce the accountability of the Executive to Parliament. This is done efficiently by the Lok Sabha through various devices—interpellations, calling attention motions, half hour, one hour and two hour discussions on specific issues raised by members which the Speaker admits at his discretion. By far the most important of the agencies through which Parliament ensures that the responsibility of the ministries to it is discharged are the Estimates and the Public Accounts Committees. Representative of all sections of the House, these two Committees provide an effective check on Government policies and programmes. They scrutinize not only the estimates of expenditure prepared by ministries but also the methods of spending funds voted by Parliament, so that there is neither mis spending nor un authorized spending.

Multi Party System

For a long time now, governance through coalition arrangements has more or less become the order of the day in the multi party system that we follow. In the current (15th) Lok Sabha, forty political parties have their presence. As of now, the present UPA II Coalition consists of 11 parties and is supported from outside by 9 parties. Running the government by coalition formations like this is like running a handicapped race. The government gets to be hamstrung in taking effective policy/reform measures. Coalition partners have their regional, local and ideological agendas which they are often unable to harmonize with the overall coalition programmes. While the Government tries to ventilate its helplessness by referring to "coalition compulsions," the constituent partners complain of violation of "coalition dharma" by the government in not reaching out to them. There needs to be effective and meaningful efforts on the part of ruling coalitions at what late Prime Minister V.P Singh characterized as "management of contradictions". This is feasible only if coordination mechanisms are perfected and made functional by ruling coalitions.

Federalism

Our polity is a Union of States. Our administration is decentralized. Sharing of powers is constitutionally provided for and mandated. Rising up to local aspirations, since original States Reorganization, several new States have been created. In my experience, parliamentarians and constitutional authorities of other countries have marvelled about our finely balanced Centre State relationship. Our political leaders owe it to our people not to disrupt this balance. Of late, especially with the rise of the regional parties, jurisdictional questions are being increasingly raised on grounds of federalism. Examples are jurisdictional debates in the context of Lok Pal Bill and creation of National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC). On issues of national importance, National and State level leaders and parties need to carefully harmonize their respective concerns in a non partisan manner. This would be feasible only if National and State governments reach out to each other for consensus building.

Representation

The system of election that we follow in our country is the "first past the post system." That is, among various contesting candidates, whoever gets the highest number of validly polled votes is declared elected. This results in candidates who do not necessarily get the majority (more than 50%) of valid votes getting qualified for seats in the legislative bodies. This also results in political parties having seats in the legislative bodies disproportionate to the popular votes polled by them in electoral contests. The merit of the "first past the post system" is that in our country of a billion people, we can conduct elections without complicated procedures inherent in proportional system of representation. The latter system also results in multiplicity of parties in the legislative bodies.

Constructive Opposition

The Opposition necessarily has to play the role of vigilantly keeping the government on leash. But it has a very constructive role to play. Indeed, in the British parliamentary system, the senior leaders in the Opposition form "shadow cabinet" - to "shadow" each member of the government. It keeps government initiated laws and policies

under scrutiny and offers alternative policies. Often, shadow cabinet members themselves become Ministers when the Opposition gets to form the government. Opposition unity and integrity is as important as unity and integrity of the ruling dispensation. People of the country should not lose out in terms of delivery of services in a merry ground of cyclical partisan hostility between the ruling dispensation and the Opposition.

Parliamentary Ethics: Probity and standards

In representative democracies, members of legislative bodies elected by the people hold their positions in trust for their constituents. People expect them to maintain high standards in public life. Constitutionally, legislators also have the function and responsibility of overseeing the Executive. It is the centrality of this function that maladministration on the part of those in positions of power in the Executive is under check. It is but natural, then, that the legislators who perform watch dog functions, are themselves expected to be persons of honesty and integrity.

Public Interest Must Be Created

Nothing is more important for the next few years than the continued political education of the masses on the virtues, principles and practices of parliamentary democracy. This is the only way in which the challenges from different sides to the very bases of parliamentary democracy can be effectively countered and subdued. It is also the necessary pre-condition for parliamentary democracy to strike deep roots in the soil, which, according to critics, is not congenial for the functioning of the western form of parliamentary government. Side by side, healthy precedents and conventions should be built up which would keep the structure in good shape and ensure its orderly and harmonious functioning.

Conclusion

The Indian culture being exceptionally fragmented as per positions, religion, class and so on, forestalls the genuine working of Parliamentary majority rules government. Then there are the impediments as high pervasiveness of lack of education and neediness. Both keep on making an endless loop which traps the fruitful working of the framework. These variables have added to the development of disquietudes as debasement, criminalization of governmental issues. Added of these are the issues of regionalism, communalism. Regionalism have many time raise requests for independent statehood. One more result of local host been the development of territorial gatherings which basically have made alliance States a pattern in Indian Parliamentary majority rules system. Communalism is another abhorrent which antagonistically impacts the ordinary working of the framework. The issues related with the absence of straightforwardness in the Administrative construction and legal postponements have made the smooth working of Parliamentary majority rules government complex. In a parliamentary democracy like India, prime minister is not only the representative of people but also answerable to them directly. He fills the role of prime minister with a mandate from public, first by winning a seat for himself in election to Lok Sabha (People's or Lower House of Parliament) and then leading the political party with most seats in Lok Sabha and having the support of at least 50% MPs in Lower House of Parliament. This makes the prime minister, the highest ranked politician and leader in a parliamentary democracy, chosen (elected) directly by people rather than hand-picked for the job by a third party or person (elected or unelected); and his leadership is perceived to have the democratic legitimacy and effectiveness and it enhances and strengthens the office of prime minister and the institution of parliamentary democracy.

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