

18

POLITICAL PARTIES AND PRESSURE GROUPS

18.1 INTRODUCTION

In the previous lessons you have read about the methods of representation and electoral process. Political parties and pressure groups are important features of a political system. In a democratic system these are of special significance because it is through political parties and pressure groups that people participate effectively in the political processes.

In this lesson we will explain and examine the nature, types and functions of political parties. You will also know what is meant by pressure groups, what is the difference between parties and pressure groups and what is their role in political processes.

18.2 OBJECTIVES

After reading this lesson you will be able to

- explain the meaning of political parties in a democracy;
- recognize the importance of political parties;
- recall the features of Indian party system;
- distinguish between the national and regional parties;
- compare the policies and programs of various parties;
- appreciate the significance of pressure groups in India; and
- differentiate between pressure groups and political parties

18.3 THE MEANING OF POLITICAL PARTY

A Political Party is an organization of the people who share certain common principles and goals regarding the political system of a country. The main purpose of the political parties is to acquire political power. The political parties which run the government are called the ruling parties. And those which sit in the opposition and criticise the government and do not participate in the government are known as opposition parties. An organization can be called a political party, if it has the following essential features :

- (i) it must be an organization of people;
- (ii) it must have clearly spelt out policies and programs;
- (iii) its member should agree with its policies, programs and its ideology;
- (iv) it must aim at getting power through democratic elections;
- (v) it must have a clear and acceptable leadership; and
- (vi) its members should be disciplined and abide by the rules of the party.

A political party is an organization of people, who share certain principles and goals regarding political system of a country its main purpose is to get power.

INTEXT QUESTIONS 18.1

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate words given in the bracket :

- (a) A political party is an organization of people whose main aim is to _____ (get power, pressurise government).
 - (b) Members of a political party _____ common principles, goals and philosophy (share, do not share).
-

18.4 TYPES OF POLITICAL SYSTEM

There are three types of party systems :

1. One Party System

One party system is that system where only one party is recognized. Other parties are declared illegal. Communist countries follow one party system. The Soviet Union and Yugoslavia had single party system when these countries were communists. Similarly China also has one party system. Earlier in Germany, only the Nazi party was allowed to exist and control the government. Similarly, Fascist party was the only party in Italy during 1922-43.

2. Bi-Party System

There are two main parties in bi-party system. Other parties do not exist. Even if they exist, their role is insignificant. The UK, USA, Australia and New Zealand have bi-party system. The political power rotates between two parties. The two main parties in the UK are Conservative Party and Labour Party. The Conservative Party is also known as Torry Party. But, in the UK there are also a number of minor parties who generally do not affect the working of government. In the USA, the two main parties are Republican and Democratic.

3. Multi-Party System

It is a system in which more than two parties are important. In a multi-party system, if any one party is not in a position to form government, a group of parties form coalition government. This system gives an opportunity to various interest groups to form parties. But it is also fraught with the risk of instability. India, Japan, France, Germany, Switzerland, Netherlands follow multi-party system.

Thus, there are three types of party systems. Only one party exists in the one party system,

two parties are main in bi-party system, and the multi-party system allows the existence of more than two parties.

INTEXT QUESTIONS 18.2

Choose the appropriate word from the brackets :

- (a) The Communist countries have _____ (one party system, multi-party system).
- (b) Germany follows _____ (bi-party system, multi-party system).
- (c) Two parties of the UK are _____. (Conservative and Labour parties, Democratic and Liberal parties).

18.5 EVOLUTION OF PARTY SYSTEM IN INDIA

The origin of party system in India can be traced back to the foundation of Indian National Congress in 1885. The main purpose of the Political Parties from the formation of Congress till 1947 was to achieve independence from the colonial rule. After the achievement of Independence, their main purpose became the attainment of political power. India has a multi-party system which was once described as dominant party system. After Independence the party system in India evolved through various phases. These phases are : (i) 1952-1967: the phase of one party dominance; (ii) 1967-1975: the period of instability and transfer to multi-party system; (iii) 1975-1977 : emergency and authoritarian period; (iv) 1977-1980 : Janata; (v) 1980-1989 : resurgence of Congress; and (vi) 1989-1997 : coalition politics.

The first phase (1952-1967) is known as the phase of one party dominance because during this period, with the exception of Kerala during 1956-59, the ruling party both at the centre and states was the Congress. The period from 1967-1975 saw the emergence of multi-party system in India. The defeat of Congress in 1967 assembly election in states of Bihar, UP, Punjab, Haryana, Orissa and Tamil Nadu ended the Congress as a single party. It was first time non-Congress parties formed government in these states. These parties formed coalition government. The Congress suffered yet another setback with its split into Congress (O) and congress (N). However, Congress again became a dominant force at centre after winning 1971 mid-term poll. During the emergency period (1975-1977), only Congress Party was allowed to function. No other party was allowed to function: democratic rights of people were curtailed. This period was known as the authoritarian period of Indian democracy. CPI then supported the Congress and actions of Indira Gandhi Government.

The dominance of Congress ended with lifting of emergency in March 1977. The election of 1977 resulted in the victory of the Janata Party. The Janata Party emerged out of merger of the non-Congress parties : Congress(O) led by Morarji Deseai, Bharatiya Lok Dal led by Ch. Charan Singh, Congress for Democracy (CFD) led by Jag Jivan Ram and H.N. Bahuguna, the Socialist led by George Fernandese and Jana Sangha led by L.K. Advani. Due to the Factionalism in the Janata Party split. This resulted in the fall of the government the Centre in 1979.

The Congress dominance was revived during 1980-1989. The Congress after 1980 was different from the earlier Congress: now it was known as Congress(I).

The period 1989-1997 is significant for the re-emergence of coalition politics, and decline of congress. There have been four coalition governments at the centre during this period. The National Front Government (1989-1990), Government led by Chandra Shekher (1990) and the United Front Governments headed by Deve Gouda and I. K. Gujral. It is the first

time that more than 13 parties — most of them regional hence formed for a front to form the government.

In the evolution of the party system in India, the period from 1989 onwards is quite significant. Along with the decline of congress, the coalition phase, in which the regional parties are playing significant role, has emerged. The period beginning 1996 saw decline of congress, emergence of BJP as a powerful force, but power at centre was saved by 13 parties including many regional parties.

INTEXT QUESTIONS 18.3

Fill in the blanks :

- (a) The phase 1952-1967 in Indian party system is known as _____
- (b) Emergency period (1975-1977) was known as the phase of _____
- (c) The period from 1989 onwards is marked by the _____

18.6 PARTY SYSTEM IN INDIA

Election Commission of India is authorized to recognize a party. There are two types of parties in India: National and Regional. In 1952, the Election Commission made a rule to determine whether a party was national or not. According to this rule the Election Commission recognized those parties as national which received 4 percent of the total valid votes cast in the previous election. In 1968, this rule was amended. It provided that the party which is recognized in four or more than four states will be declared as a national party. A party which secures four percent or more of the valid votes in a state is recognised in the state. In the general election held in 1996 following parties were recognised as national parties.

1. The Indian National Congress (I)
2. The Bharatiya Janata Party
3. The Janata Dal
4. The Communist Party of India
5. The Communist Party of India (Marxist)
6. The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP)

Given below are some of the regional parties recognized by the Election Commission of India :

1. Akali Dal (Punjab)
2. National Conference (Jammu and Kashmir)
3. Dravid Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK, Tamil Nadu)
4. All India Anna Dravid Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry)
5. Telugu Desam Party (TDP, Andhra Pradesh)
6. Shiv Sena (Maharashtra)

Election Commission recognizes that party as national party, which is recognized in four or more than four states. A party which secures four percent or more than four percent votes is recognized in a state.

1. Indian National Congress (I)

The Congress was originally formed in 1885 at Bombay, under the presidentship of W.C. Bannerjee. The Indian National Congress (I) popularly known as Congress(I) was founded by Indira Gandhi in 1978. It is the latest phase of the Indian National Congress, which was founded in 1885. Indira Gandhi remained its president till her assassination in 1984. After death, her son Rajiv Gandhi became its president. After Rajiv Gandhi's death P.V. Narasimha Rao became the president of the Congress (I). He was replaced by Sita Ram Kesari in 1996.

The Congress(I) has been drawing support from various social groups : all castes and classes. The poor felt benefited by the Congress(I). But in the 1990's there is considerable decline in the support base of the Congress (I). Large section of people who used to support Congress till the 1980's have ceased to support it.

Following are the main aims of the Congress(I) :

- (1) to preserve the unity and integrity of India;
- (2) to safeguard the interest of the minorities;
- (3) to increase food production;
- (4) to remove poverty, achieve development of agriculture and industry;
- (5) to provide universal elementary education to children, improve primary healthcare in rural areas;
- (6) to achieve social, educational and economic development of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

The Congress(I) developed from Indian National Congress. It promised to safeguard rights of people, preserve the unity and integrity of the country, remove poverty, to protect the fights of minorities and fight against communalism.

INTEXT QUESTIONS 18.4

Choose the correct answer from the brackets :

- (a) Congress(I) was founded in _____ (1978, 1985, 1984).
- (b) Congress(I) drew support from _____ (only the rich, all sections of society).

2. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)

The BJP was founded in 1980. It envisaged to establish Gandhian socialism. The concept of Gandhian socialism was based on the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi, Jai Prakash Narain and Deen Dayal Upadhyay. It aimed to ensure simultaneous growth of cottage, small and big industries. It also promised to ensure the basic amenities to all. The party, however, abandoned the Gandhian socialism at its meeting in Pune in October 1985. It now sought to protect and promote Hindutva within a "genuine secular India". It felt that due to the policies of secular appeasement, the Hindus are discriminated by the government. The BJP started Ayodhya movement to build 'Ram Temple' at Ayodhya.

The Ayodhya agitation helped the BJP. In 1989 it secured 88 seats in Lok Sabha, while in 1984 it got only 2 seats. In 1991 it won 119 seats and in 1996 it won 161 seats, since the BJP emerged as the single largest party in 1996 Lok Sabha election, the then President of India Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma invited the BJP leader Atal Bihari Bajpayee to be Prime

Minister. However, he failed to secure vote of confidence in the Lok Sabha, and resigned just after 30 days.

The policies and programs of the BJP are based on the following principles :

- (1) Despite differences of languages, religions, castes, Indians constitute one nation. Nothing is higher than nation.
- (2) National integration should be the goal of all Indians. It is possible only by following the principles of Indian culture.
- (3) Commitment to democracy.
- (4) Positive secularism : all religions should be treated equally, and no religious community should be appeased.
- (5) Value-based politics.
- (6) In foreign affairs, the party believes in the policy of genuine non-alignment. It wants to improve relations with neighbours including China and Pakistan.

The Bharatiya Janata Party(BJP) has the aim to achieve integral Humanism. It wants to follow value based politics.

3. The Communist Parties

There are two main communist parties in India : The Communist Party of India(CPI) and the Communist Party of India(Marxist) [CPI(M)]. The latter emerged out of the split in the SPI in 1964. The communist parties believe in the principles of Marxism-Leninism. After the congress, the CPI is the oldest party of India. The CPI was established in exile at Tashkent on 17th October, 1920. But it was formally founded in India in December 1925. Since its formation the CPI organised peasants, workers and other exploited classes of India. It also participated in the Indian National Movement. The CPI did not consider the achievement of Independence in 1947 as genuine Independence.

The Communists were the main opposition in the Lok Sabha throughout the Nehru era. The CPI was the first party in the world to form the government through parliamentary democracy, when it got absolute majority in Kerala assembly became the first Communist Chief Minister of Kerala.

The CPI and CPI(M) differ on their understanding of the ex-Soviet Union and China, and on important aspects of Indian politics. Some of these aspects are : the nature of Indian State, the role of National bourgeoisie, evaluation of congress party as a factor in completion of the democratic revolution, the strategy of achieving the goal of socialism and tactics to be followed towards other parties for socio-economic transformation of India.

The CPI(M) believes that the Indian state represents the interests of the landlords, bourgeoisie classes, who are in collaboration with foreign monopoly capital. These classes together exploit Indian masses. It believes that people can be liberated from this exploitation if they establish people's democracy. The present democracy in India according to CPI(M) is bourgeoisie democracy.

The CPI does not believe in the people's democracy. Instead, it believes the concept of national democracy. It is a form of democracy, in which bourgeoisie and working classes together can provide leadership.

The communist parties have their support base among the working classes. They are strong in the states of West.Bengal, Kerala, Tripura and Andhra Pradesh. They have their fraternal organization among students, workers, peasants, women, etc. through which they conduct their activities.

The CPI and CPI(M) believe in the principles of Marxism and Leninism. They organize the poor classes of India. They did not consider the Independence of India from British rule as genuine. According to them the conditions of the people can be ameliorated only by following the principles of Marxism Leninism.

INTEXT QUESTIONS 18.5

Choose correct answer from the brackets :

- (a) CPI(M) envisages to establish _____ (people's democracy, bourgeoisie, national democracy).
- (b) CPI was formally founded in India in _____ (1925, 1964, 1977).

4. The Bahujan Samaj Party(BSP)

In 1996 the BSP acquired the status of national party. It was set up in 1984 by Kashi Ram. The BSP aims at forming the government of those sections of society which form the majority (Bahujan Samaj) of Indian population. These sections belong to the low castes and minorities. The BSP believes that these groups have been exploited by the high castes — Brahmins, Rajputs, and Kayasthas for centuries. They can be freed from the exploitation of high castes only by forming the government led by them. The area of BSP influence lies mainly in Madhya Pradesh, UP and Punjab. In 1995 and 1997 it formed the coalition government with Mayawati as the Chief Minister.

Before the formation of the BSP, it had existed in the form of organization i.e. BAMSEF and DS4. The BAMSEF stood for Backward Muslims and Scheduled Caste Federation. It was later renamed as DS4. It meant Dalit Soshit Samaj Sangharsh Samiti.

The BSP aims at establishing the rule of the majority section of society which consist of low castes, some middle castes and non-Hindus.

5. The Janata Dal

The Janata Dal was formed in 1989. It was result of the merger of the four groups : Lok Dal, the Janata Party, Jana Morcha and Rashtriya Sanjay Manch. The Janata Dal was main a member of the National Front were. The Telugu Desam Party, The Assam Gana Parisad, and the DMK. The purpose of the National Front was to consolidate the non-congress forces following its victory in 1990 Lok Sabha election, the National Front led by V.P. Singh formed the government at the centre. It was supported by the BJP and Left Front from outside.

Within two years of the formation of the National Front government, the parties forming the National Front could not be united. The BJP withdrew support to the National Front government in November 1990 following the differences with the government over Ayodhya issue. Besides, the differences among the constituents of the National Front over Mandal issue contributed to the disintegration of the National Front. The Janata Dal is strong in Karnataka, Bihar and Orissa. Again in 1996 the Janata Dal became one of the parties which formed the United Front. H.D. Deve Gowda belongs to the Janata Dal. Due to withdrawal of Congress support, Deve Gowda lost vote of confidence in Lok Sabha in April, 1997. He was succeed by his Foreign Minister I.K. Gujral (also from Janata Dal) and the same coalition retained power.

The Janata believes in Gandhian philosophy. It claims to attempt to bring about the social justice, protect secularism and strengthen decentralisation of the economy and polity.

The Janata Dal was set up in 1989. It was result of merger of four : Lok Dal, the Janata Party, Jana Morcha and Rashtriya Sanjay Manch. It was one of the parties which formed the National Front government (1989-90) led by V.P. Singh. It also became the part of the United Front, which run the Central Government under the Prime Minister of H.D. Deve Gowda.

18.7 REGIONAL PARTIES

After 1996 Lok Sabha election, the regional parties have assumed significance in the central government. Their significance can be understood by the fact that large number of parties which constitute the United Front are regional parties.

Following paragraphs discuss some of the regional parties in India.

1. The Shiromani Akali Dal

The Shiromani Akali Dal was founded in Punjab in 1921. Its main purpose was to liberate the Gurudwaras from the control of corrupt religious leadership. It has a strong base among the Jat Sikh farming community. It played a leading role in demanding the Punjabi Suba. The Akali Dal also worked actively against emergency. It strongly favours autonomy of the states.

Founded in 1921 in Punjab, the Shiromani Akali Dal wants to achieve autonomy for Punjab. It supports the Anandpur Sahib Resolution, within a united and strong India. It has been in power in Punjab several times, and shared power at the Centre in Desai Government (1977-79).

2. Telugu Desam Party (TDP)

The TDP was founded in 1982 by N.T. Rama Rao, popularly known as NTR. NTR was an actor of Telugu films before entering politics. TDP contested first time assembly election held in 1984 and its leader NTR became the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. TDP was the first non-congress party to rout the congress party in Andhra Pradesh.

The TDP alleged that before its formation the congress leadership had sacrificed the dignity of Telugu people. It promised to restore their dignity. Later NTR tried to change the name of TDP to Bharat Desam Party in order to make it an all India party. But he could not succeed. The TDP provided subsidised rice and saris to the poor. It stands for more powers to the States.

N.T. Rama Rao Government was toppled in 1995 by his son-in-law Chandra Babu Naidu. Naidu became the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. Later TDP (Naidu) became a member of the United Front, which formed the government at Centre in 1996.

INTEXT QUESTIONS 18.6

Choose the correct word from brackets :

- (a) NTR _____ in founding the Bharat Desam Party. (failed, succeeded)
- (b) Shiromani Akali Dal was founded in _____ (Haryana, Punjab, PEPSU)

3. The National Conference (NC)

The National Conference started with the formation of a study group in the 1930. In 1932 it developed into All Jammu and Kashmir Conference. It changed its name to All Jammu and Kashmir National Conference in 1938. It was founded by Shaikh Abdullah. It supported

and endorsed the Kashmir's accession to India. The National Conference introduced land reforms in the Jammu and Kashmir. It stands for regional autonomy. It has been in power in the state for most of the time. After Sheikh Abdullah's death, his son Dr. Farooq Abdullah took over as Chief Minister. During extreme militancy in this state (1989-95) state remained under Central Rule. Dr. Abdullah returned to power in 1994, and National Conference joined the United Front Government at the Centre in 1997.

4. Assam Gana Parisad (AGP)

The origin of the AGP can be traced back Assam Agitation of the 1970's and 1980's. The students of Assam set up All Assam Students Union (AASU) and launched a movement. A large sections of the people of Assam participated in this movement. The agitators felt that Assam was rich in natural resources. These were exploited by the foreigners and industrialists from outside Assam. In order to get justice, and get the foreigners extradited, the AASU launched an agitation.

In order to contest 1985 assembly election, the agitators set up a political party — the Assam Gana Sangam Parisad. It got majority in the election and formed the government in Assam. It became a member of the National Front led by V.P. Singh and later of the United Front led by H.D. Deve Gowda.

5. D.M.K.

Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) was founded in 1949 by C.M. Annadurai. Its origin is rooted in the Dravidian or the non-Brahmin movement of the early decades of the twentieth century. E.V. Ram Swami Naiker popularly known as Periyar started the non-Brahmin movement. He founded the justice party to counter the Brahmin dominated congress. He also wanted to so away the domination of Brahmins in legislature and local bodies. For this purpose he founded self-respect movement in 1925. It was social and political movement.

In 1944 the DK (Dravida Kazhagam) was founded under the leadership of Periyar following the merger between the Justice Party and self-respect movement. The DK observed the Independence day (August 15, 1947) as the day of mourning. Meanwhile within the DK the differences between Periyar and C.M. Annadurai developed. This resulted in the split in DK Annadurai formed the DMK in 1949.

It promised to preserve and protect the Tamil identity regional autonomy, opposed the imposition of Hindi. Initially it demanded creation of a separate state for Tamilians. But later it changed to the amelioration of the socio-economic conditions of the people. After the death of Annadurai in 1969 M. Karunanidhi became the president of the DMK. DMK was a member of the front led by V.P. Singh. It also became the member of the United Front Government at the Centre in 1996.

INTEXT QUESTIONS 18.7

Choose the correct answer from the brackets :

- (a) DMK was founded by _____ (C.M. Annadurai, M. Karunanidhi).
 (b) The anti-Brahmin movement was led by _____ (Periyar, M.G. Rama Chandaran).

6. A.I-ADMK

The All India Anna Dravida Munetra Kazhagam(A.I.-ADMK) was born as a result of split in the DMK. After the death of C.M. Annadurai in 1969, the differences grew between

Karunanidhi and M.G. Ram Chandran, M.G. Ram Chandran formed the AIDMK in 1972. e became its first president. He was an actor of Tamil films. Like the DMK, the AIDMK, also claimed to represent the interest of Dravidians, stands for greater autonomy of the state, and promised to ameliorate the socio-economic conditions of the poor. After the death of M.G. Rama Chandran in 1987, Jayalalitha became the president of the AIDMK.

7. Shiv Sena

Shiv Sena was set up in 1969 in Maharashtra by Bal Thackray. It aims to protect the interest of the Maharashtrians. It evokes the legacy of Shivaji. It also has inclination towards the ideology of Hindutva. Initially the Shiv Sena worked for removal of migrants, especially South Indians from Bombay. Later it worked for protecting the industries from the communists. In the initial years of its formation, the Shiv Sena worked as a pressure group. Later it started contesting elections. Manohar Joshi became the first Shiv Sena Chief Minister of Maharashtra, in a Sena — BJP coalition in 1995.

18.8 PRESSURE GROUPS

Pressure groups are voluntary associations formed with the purpose of promoting interests of a particular group or group or groups of society. Unlike the political parties, they do not contest elections. They are called pressure groups because they attempt to get their demands accepted through pressure. They adopt various techniques for pressurizing the government these may be democratic and some time agitation. There are several pressure groups in India. Some of these pressure groups are following:

- (1) Farmer's organizations
- (2) Trade Unions
- (3) Business and interest group

1. Farmer's Movements

During the late 1970's and 1980's India witnessed farmers movements in various regions. These movements aim at securing better price for farmer's products and other facilities like better irrigation arrangements. Organizations and leaders of these movements were the Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) led by Mahendra Singh Tikait in west UP, BKU movement led by Bhupindr Singh Mann in Punjab, Karnataka Rajya Ryata Sangha movement led by Prof. Nanjugoswami in Karnataka. Shekari Sangathan movement led by Sharad Joshi in Maharashtra. Farmers movements have emerged as strong pressure groups in India.

The characteristics of these movements are following: They grew in the regions which are more developed these regions have witnessed out all development of agriculture through Green Revolution. They mobilised the dominant sections of the villages. They raised demands of the market-oriented farmers i.e. remunerative prices for their products, subsidised inputs, increased in the availability of electricity time and decrease in the electricity charges, writing off government loans. They alleged that the urban sector was exploiting the rural sector. Some of the farmers organizations demanded cancellation of land ceiling and sets minimum wages acts for the agricultural labourers. Initially, these movements were political their leaders and supports did not belong to any party. However, in the due course of time, the farmers organizations joined or supported one or the other political party.

Towards the end fo the 1980's these movements suffered setback. They got divided due to

political differences, ego problems of their leaders. Nevertheless, farmers leaders and movements continue to play an important role as pressure groups.

Farmers movements are different from the peasant movements. The farmers belong to the dominant sections of the villages. The latter belong to the poor sections.

INTEXT QUESTIONS 18.8

- (a) The BKU movement in Punjab was led by _____ (Mahendra Singh Tikait, Bhupindra Singh Mann)
- (b) The farmer movements took place in _____ (developed areas, backward areas).

2. Business Groups

Business groups are the most influential groups in India. They pressure the government to formulate policies which favour them regarding trade, tariff, excise duties, foreign exchange licenses, and favourable climate for investment, etc. The main business organizations in India are : The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Associated Chamber of Commerce (ASSOCHAM), CII (Confederation of Indian Industries).

The first business group known as Chamber of Commerce were set up in India during the 1930's in Calcutta, Bombay and Madras. But it was only after the 1980's that a considerable number of Indian business men started to enter modern trade and industry and thus helped in formation of Indian Chamber of Commerce. But they were not influential.

FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry) is the largest business organization in India. FICCI is the changed name of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce which was launched in 1927. Its purpose was to look after the industrial needs of the country. The business groups exert their influence by control over press by lobbying. They donate funds to the parties, which in turn serve their interests. Before the general budget is presented the business groups attempt to influence the budget in order to get fiscal benefits. Sometimes a representative of the business group is appointed as a member of the Rajya Sabha. On major policy issues of commercial significance the government itself seeks the advice of the business groups. The role of the business groups assumed special significance in the 1990's with the process of liberalization.

The business groups pressurize the government through lobbying, donations, and persuasion. They seek concessions in matters relating to trade, tariff, tax, investment, etc.

3. Trade Unions

The organizations which articulate the interests of the working classes are known as trade unions. The origins of trade unions in India can be traced back to the establishment of All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) in 1920. Lala Lajpat Rai was its first president. By 1935 the AITUC came under the control of the CPI. In the following years all major political groups formed trade unions. The congress formed the Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC) in 1944. Socialist established the Hind Mazdoor Sabha (HMS). The CPI(M) formed Centre of Indian Trade Union (CITU). The BJP founded Hind Mazdoor Parishad (HMP).

The trade unions do not have their independent existence. They are affiliated to political parties. They are known as the working class wings of the political parties. Their activities are guided by the broad policies and programmes of the parties of their affiliation. The

trade unions have strived for improvement in the conditions of workers, getting social benefits like insurance for employees, medical and housing facilities, computerization, getting bonus for them.

Most of the political parties have the trade unions affiliated to them. However, there can be trade unions without any party affiliations. The trade unions seek redressal of the grievances of the working classes.

WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNT

In this lesson you have learnt about the political parties and pressure groups in India. The political party is an organisation of people who share common principles and ideas. The main purpose of political parties is to get power. There are three types of the party systems one party system, bi-party system and multi-party system. India follows multi-party system. The national parties are those which are recognised in four or more than four states. A party is recognised in a state if it gets 4 percent or more votes in the previous elections. You have read about the following national parties. The Indian National Congress(I), The Bharatiya Janata Party, The Janata Dal, The Communist Parties – CPI and CPI(M) and the Bahujan Samaj Party. You have also learnt about the following regional parties — The Akali Dal, National Conferences, DMK, AIDMK, Telugu Desam Party and Shiv Sena. All regional parties strive for the regional autonomy.

You have read that the pressure groups are different from the political parties in the sense that they do not participate in the election while the political parties take part. The pressure groups pressurizing the government through the attempt to get their demands accepted by the democratic and undemocratic methods. You have read about the following pressure groups, the farmers organizations, the business groups, the trade unions and the social-cultural organisation like the RSS.

TERMINAL EXERCISES

1. Describe the concept of Gandhian Socialism.
2. Name the parties that constituted the United Front in 1996.
3. Describe the policies of the Janata Dal.

4. Describe the objectives of BSP.
5. Describe the aims of AI-ADMK.
6. Describe the objectives of Shiv Sen.

NOTES

ANSWER TO INTEXT QUESTIONS

- 18.1 (a) get power
(b) share
- 18.2 (a) one party system
(b) multi-party system
(c) Conservative and Labour Parties
- 18.3 (a) phase of one party dominance
(b) authoritarianism
(c) decline of Congress
- 18.4 (a) 1978
(b) all section of society
- 18.5 (a) people's democracy
(f) 1925
- 18.6 (a) failed
(g) Punjab
- 18.7 (a) C.M. Annadurai
(h) Periyar
- 18.8 (a) Bhupindra Singh Marm
(b) developed areas

HINTS TO TERMINAL EXERCISES

1. Please Refer to Section 18.6.2
2. Please Refer to Section 18.6.5
3. Please Refer to Section 18.6.5
4. Please Refer to Section 18.6.4
5. Please Refer to Section 18.7.6
6. Please Refer to Section 18.7.7