

Subject political science

Chapter 3 Electoral Politics

In a democracy people do not govern directly. They govern through the elected representatives. Governing through elected representatives is the most common form of democracy. We will discuss about the election of representatives, need of elections and how to make election democratic. It also involves examining the role of election commission in ensuring free and fair election.

**Election** - The procedure by which people choose their representatives at regular intervals is called election.

The procedure of election can be understood by the real example of Haryana assembly election.

1. Formation of new Party Lok Dal- Haryana had been ruled by congress party since 1982. At that time Chaudhary Devi Lal was an opposition leader. He led movement called Nyay Yuddh that is the struggle for justice and formed new party Lok Dal.
2. Election campaign of Devi Lal- In election campaigns of 1987 assembly election Devi Lal promised voters that if his party wins he would waive loans of farmers and small businessmen.
3. Voters supported Lok Dal - As people were unhappy with existing government they were attracted by Devi Lal's promise. They voted in favour of Lok Dal and its partners won 76 out of 96 seats.

4. Results announced - Lok Dal won 60 seats alone and thus had a clear majority in the Assembly. Congress got only 5 seats. As the election result was announced, the existing Chief Minister of Congress resigned.

5. Devi Lal became Chief Minister - The newly elected members of Legislative Assembly of Lok Dal chose Devi Lal as their leader. The Governor invited Devi Lal to be the new Chief Minister. After 3 days of election result, he took oath. Then his government issued a government order waiving the outstanding loans to small farmers, agricultural labourers and small businessmen.

6. Congress again forms government- Lok Dal ruled the state for 4 years. In 1991 election, party did not win people's support. This time Congress Party won the election and formed the government.