

Panchayati Raj in Haryana

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Abstract

In India panchayati raj structure is classified as three tier systems. In the state with chosen figures at the village block and district level. It insures superior contribution of people and extra active application of rural development programme. Gram panchayat will be there for a village or group of village block samiti and zilaparishad at the district level.

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Introduction

The constitution of India establishes a federal construction to the Indian government stating it to be 'Union of States' Part IX of Indian constitution stipulates the distribution of powers between union government and states of India. The constitution visualizes panchayats as institution of self government. But, giving due consideration to the federal construction of our polities, most of economic powers and authorities to be endowed the panchayats have been left at the choice of concerned state. These provisions combine representing and direct democracy. The Institution of panchayat represents not only the collective will, but also collective wisdom of the entire rural community.

Development of Panchayati Raj in India

In India panchayati raj structure is classified as three tier systems. In the state with chosen figures at the village block and district level. It insures superior contribution of people and extra active application of rural development programme. Gram panchayat will be there for a village or group of village block samiti and zilaparishad at the district level.

India has a long history of panchayati raj starting from a independent and autonomous village panchayati raj had to go through various stages. When India become independent in 1947 perhaps one-third of the villagers of india had old-style Panchayats and their working was not up to the expected level. The congress government made a strong effort to encourage the formation of government panchayats to make them active and effective elements of local government. Article 40 of the constitution of 1950 says "The State take step to organize village Panchayat". In the early years after getting independence no efforts were made for the setting up of the panchayati raj.

In January 1957 a squad for the study at public projects and national extension facility needed by Balwant Raj Mehta was selected. The National Development Council declared the basic ideologies under lying democratic decentralization. In harmony with the recommendation of the committee, a number of states created three tier organization of rural native self government institutions on the outline of Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan, with some adjustments.

Panchayati Raj in Haryana

Haryana one of the smaller state of India in terms of its size and population, was a part of Punjab till November 1966. When Haryana became a separate state with an area of 44,056 square kilometer and 10,36,808 population as per 2001 census. In 1966 the local government institutions aerating in the state had three tiers. These

include the gram panchayat. The Panchayat samiti and zilaparishad under Punjab Panchayat samitis and zilaparishads Act 1961. Their basic pattern formulated on the lines of the recommendations of the Balwant Raj Mehta study squad in 1957 was retained after 1966 on 22 April 1964, in conformity with the constitutions (73 Amendment) Act 1992 the Haryana Panchayati Raj act 1994 come into force. This central amendment restarted the original three-tier construction of Panchayati Raj institution in the state and brought the pattern in conformity with the one pre-existing all over the country.

Haryana Panchayati Raj Act 1994 (Amendment 73)

The Haryana Panchayati Raj Act 1994 combined all the vital features of the 73rd constitutional Amendment Act. It has made the gram sabha inner soul of the panchayat raj organization. It delivers a stage for the straight contribution of the people themselves. It is compulsory to hold at least two-gram sabha conferences annually in the month of May and November. The act makes a provision for sarpanch to hold three consecutive meetings of the gram sabha. In demand to confirm that gram sabha develops as a true democratic institution the act confirms a sum of influences and purposes on the gram sabha. The block development and panchayat office and the gram Sachiv attend every general meetings of panchayat samiti and gram panchayats respectively of panchayat samiti and gram panchayats respectively. Several functions have been commended to the gram sabha such as evaluation of annual statement of accounts and report on administrative doings and development affairs of Panchayat.

The Act provides for the direct election of members to the panchayat raj institution at all the three levels on the basis of wards for the gram panchayat and territorial constituencies in the case of panchayat samities and Zilaparishads. They make clear that the minimum number of gram panchayat members will not be less than 6 and more than 20. In case of panchayat samiti members, one member for every 4000 population. The act provides that the government will divide a district into wards in such a manner that the population of each ward be same throughout the districts. M.L.A's one ex-official associates of panchayat samitis. In zilaparishads, both M.P's and M.L.A's have been made ex-official members. All the chairpersons of panchayat samiti will also be ex-officio members of the zilaparishad.

Amendment Act of 1999 And 2003

The Haryana vidhansabha on 9th Feb 1999 passed an amendment act to provide the smooth functioning of panchayati raj institutions by abolishing the post of upsarpanch which had become a hurdle in the working of gram panchayat.

In 2003 'Rule of Sections' of Haryana panchayati raj act 1994 were amended.

Haryana Panchayati Raj Amendment 2015

Haryana state assembly approved the Haryana panchayat raj (Amendment) bill 2015 which seeks to be amend the Haryana panchayat raj act 1994 and states minimum educational requirement relating to eligibility criteria for election to panchayati raj institutions. The bill was offered by Haryana Agriculture Minister 'O.P. Dhanker' and by virtue of this Haryana become the second state after Rajasthan to fire education and other qualification as eligibility criteria for the candidates.

Highlights of the Bill 2015

- It is mendatatory for the candidates to have a functional toilet at home and payment slips of power bill.
- Matriculations is the essential requirement for general candidates who are contesting the panchayat election.
- For women (general) candidates, essential qualification is middle standard or class 8th passed.
- The educational condition for the women SC candidate should be class 5th passed.
- Persons against charges have been enclosed by the capable court for criminal offences punishable by not less than 10 years of jail will not be permitted to participate in the elections till they are cleared by the court.
- Cooperative loan defaulters will also be debarred from participate in the elections to panchayati raj institution.

Significance of Bill 2015

This is to advance the class of leadership and governance in gram panchayats and also to allow elected representatives of PRIs to be more liable and responsible towards their people.

Need For Such Amendment

The Haryana government explained that the need for introducing such amendment was to improve the quality of leadership. Fixing an educational qualification will enable the experienced people to contest elections which help in better decision making. The Haryana Chief Minister started that the qualification regarding education criteria were necessary because it is not possible for an illiterate Sarpanch to properly appropriate the budget amount worth lakhs of rupees.

Conclusion

I believe that this amendment will increase the accountability of elected representatives. Sh. Manohar Lal khattar as the bill aims to create a responsible government. Looking at deprived working of the gram panchayats panchayat sanities and zilaparishads owing to illiterate representatives, there is a need for prescribing minimum educational qualification. This is a great decision taken by the Haryana government which will bring more experience to ground level, in my opinion, this should be extended even to member of legislative assembly and member of parliament. It is a good precedent and will improve the overall leadership in the country.

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