“Coalitions politics in India: challenges and impacts”

Dr. K. Venkatesh
Asst Professor in Political Science
SSAS Govt First Grade College Hosapete.

Abstract

How does governing in coalitions affect coalition parties’ responsiveness to voters? In this article, we seek to understand the relationship between political parties’ participation in multiparty governments and their responsiveness to voters. We argue that the extent to which coalition parties respond to policy priorities of voters is influenced by the divisiveness of policy issues within the cabinet and the ministerial responsibility for policies. To test our hypotheses, we combine data on the issue attention of 55 coalition parties from the Comparative Manifestos Project with data on government composition and data on the policy priorities of voters from the Comparative Study of Electoral Systems and various election studies in 45 elections across 16 European countries from 1972 to 2011. Any party may gain majority in the lower house, if not, coalitions are formed by the political parties to gain a majority in the lower house for formation of government. This research study will analyze its nature, challenges and prospects of coalition governments in Indian political process. The significance lies in the study of multi-party system, growth of regionalism and its effect on the pattern of Centre-State relations. Further, there is failure of the national consensus on a parliamentary majority because for three decades the national government was headed by a coalition government or by minority government from 1989 to 2014. From 1952 to 1977 and 1980 to 1989 was Congress dominance.

Keywords: politics, multi-party system, growth of regionalism. Voter responsive .Election

Introduction:

Coalition is a phenomenon of a multi-party government where a number of minority parties join hands for the purpose of running the government. A coalition is formed when many
groups come into common terms with each other and define a common programme or agenda on which they work. A coalition government always remains in pulls and pressures particularly in a multinational like India.

The term Coalition is derived from the latin word ‘Coalition’ which comes from the compound word. ‘Co-alescere’ Co- meaning together and ‘alescere’ meaning to grow up. Coalition thus means’ to grow up together! [1].

According to the dictionary meaning of the term ‘coalition’ is ‘the combination or alliance, short of union, especially political parties.’ It refers to a combination into one body of separate bodies, but permitting them their separate existence. The combination is for joint action and is temporary.

Classification of Coalitions

The parliamentary Coalitions can be classified into two types:-

(i) Pre-election coalitions
The pre-election alliances involve electoral alliances and electoral adjustments. The pre-poll understandings between the parties are very common. They may agree on a common programme or content themselves with an understanding not to oppose each other’s candidates in certain constituencies and even to extend them support.

(ii) Post-election coalitions

A post-election coalition results from the eagerness of parties to share political power and run the government. A post-election coalition is facilitated if it is preceded by a proto or pre-election understanding. In a multiparty system, there is a lot of manoeuvring by parties and splinter groups to evolve a majority coalition to form the ministry. There are a lot of negotiations and much of give and take. There may be a good bit of horse trading and other types of exchanges. Considerations of personality, tradition, style and chance figure prominent in the formation of any particular coalition each group tries to occupy a pivotal position. The pivotal position may be defined as that occupied by the last added group of a minimal winning coalition. Withdraw of this group will make the coalition cease to exist.

First experience of coalition in free India:

In 1977 when non-congress forces united under the leadership of Morarji Desai in the name of Janta government. The four party Janata governments remained in power for about year’s i.e. Once the no confidence motion against Desai was discussed in the lower house Mr. Desai tendered his resignation. The Janta government collapsed like a house of cards in July 1979. Second coalition, a new coalition was formed with Mr. Charan Singh as the Prime Minister in October 1979. This coalition had the support of CPI (M) and the CPI. There was pro-west Fernandes and pro-soviet Bahuguna faction in the coalition.3

But, once President asked him to seek a vote of confidence in the house within three weeks’ time, Mr. Charan Singh tendered his resignation before facing the house. Hence became the first Indian Prime minister who did not face the house. Third coalition was formed was formed in the name of national front. National Front and Samajwadi Janata Party: Issues of Bofors, terrorism in Punjab 1984, civil war in Sri Lanka were some of important factors that affected the outcome of elections Congress (I) minority government led by National
Front by V.P. Singh & Ch. Devilal (Janatha Dal + BJP + Telugu Desam+ DMK + AGP + BJP + Left). Later BJP withdrew on ideological issues, Mandal Commission, Ram Mandir issue. Meanwhile, Chandra Sekar broke away from the Janata Dal.

Since India's Independence on 15 August 1947, Indian National Congress, the major political party instrumental in Indian independence movement, ruled the nation. The first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, second PM Lal Bahadur Shastri and the third PM Indira Gandhi, all were from the Congress party. However, Raj Narain, who had unsuccessfully contested election against Indira from the constituency of Rae Bareilly in 1971, lodged a case, alleging electoral malpractices. In June 1975, Indira was found guilty and barred by High Court from holding public office for six years. In response, an ungracious Emergency was declared under the pretext of national security. The next election's result was that India's first-ever coalition government was formed at the national level under the Prime Ministri...
to do so since 1984 election) and National Democratic Alliance again came into power, with Narendra Modi as Prime Minister and more.

References:


IX. 12 Jun 1980 Tribune

X. The Hindu 7 March 1991


XVI. www.jetir.org/papers/JETIR1805245.pdf

XVII. www.ijcrt.org/papers/IJCRT1813010.pdf

XVIII. www.ijcrt.org/viewfull.php?p_id=IJCRT1813018


XXI. http://www.ijirmps.org/research-paper.php?id=151

XXII. http://www.jetir.org/view?paper=JETIR1806116
XXIII. http://www.jetir.org/view?paper=JETIR1806117
XXIV. http://www.jetir.org/view?paper=JETIR1806118
XXV. http://www.jetir.org/view?paper=JETIR1806478
XXVI. http://www.jetir.org/view?paper=JETIR1806479
XXVII. http://www.jetir.org/view?paper=JETIR1702029
XXVIII. http://www.jetir.org/view?paper=JETIR1702030
XXIX. http://www.ijcrt.org/viewfull.php?&p_id=IJCRT1813224
XXX. http://www.ijcrt.org/viewfull.php?&p_id=IJCRT1813225
XXXI. http://www.ijcrt.org/viewfull.php?&p_id=IJCRT1813226
XXXII. http://www.ijcrt.org/viewfull.php?&p_id=IJCRT1813316
XXXIII. http://www.ijcrt.org/viewfull.php?&p_id=IJCRT1813309
XXXIV. http://www.ijcrt.org/viewfull.php?&p_id=IJCRT1033028
XXXV. http://www.ijcrt.org/viewfull.php?&p_id=IJCRT1033029
XXXVI. http://www.ijrar.org/viewfull.php?&p_id=IJRAR1903066
XXXVII. http://www.ijrar.org/viewfull.php?&p_id=IJRAR1903067