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SUBJECT:- CIVICS

CLASS:-IXTH

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CHAPTER 1. (ELECTORAL POLITICS) (BASED ON NCERT PATTERN)(REVISION)

Question 1. What are the challenges to free and fair elections in India?

Answer: The elections in India are basically free and fair. But, a few candidates may win purely based on money power and unfair means. These challenges exist not just in India but also in many established democracies. These deeper issues are a matter of concern for those who believe in democracy. The challenges to free and fair elections in India are as follows.

- Candidates and parties with a lot of money may not be sure of their victory but they do enjoy a big and unfair advantage over smaller parties and independents.
- In some parts of the country, candidates with criminal connection have been able to push others out of the electoral race and to secure a 'ticket' from major parties.
- Some families tend to dominate political parties; tickets are distributed to relatives from these families.
- Very often elections offer little choice to ordinary citizens, for both the major parties are quite similar to each other both in policies and practice.
- Smaller parties and independent candidates suffer a huge disadvantage compared to bigger parties.

Question 2. How can you say outcome of elections is a final test of free and fair elections? Explain

Answer: One final test of the free and fair of election has in the outcome itself. If elections are not free or fair, the outcome always favours the powerful. In such a situation, the ruling parties do not lose elections. Usually, the losing party does not accept the outcome of a rigged election.

The outcome of India's elections speaks for itself:

- The ruling parties routinely lose elections in India both at the national and state level. In fact, in every two out of the three elections held in the last fifteen years, the ruling party lost.
- In the US, an incumbent or 'sitting' elected representative rarely loses an election. In India, about half of the sitting MPs or MLAs lose elections.
- Candidates who are known to have spent a lot of money on 'buying votes' and those with known criminal connections often lose elections.
- Barring very few disputed elections, the electoral outcomes are usually accepted as 'people's verdict' by the defeated party.

Question 3. What do you mean by Voter's List? What is its significance?

Answer: (i) In a democratic election, the list of those who are eligible to vote is prepared much before the election and given to everyone. This list is officially called the Electoral Roll and is commonly known as the Voters' List.

(ii) The significance of Voter's List is as follows:

- This is an important step for it is linked to the first condition of a democratic election. Everyone should get an equal opportunity to choose representatives.
- In our country, all the citizens aged 18 years and above can vote in an election. Every citizen has the right to vote, regardless of his or her caste, religion or gender.
- It is the responsibility of the government to get the names of all the eligible voters put on the Voter's List. As new persons attain voting age, names are added to the voters' list. Names of those who move out of a place or those who are dead are deleted.
- A complete revision of the list takes place every five years. This is done to ensure that it remains up to date. In the last few years a new system of Election Photo Identity Card (EPIC) has been introduced. The government has tried to give this card to every person on the voters' list. But the card is not yet compulsory for voting. For voting, the voters can show many other proofs of identity like the ration card or the driving licence.

Question 4. What are the minimum conditions needed for a democratic election?

Solution:

There are five minimum conditions needed for a democratic election. They are :

- Everyone should have the right to vote and every vote should have equal value.
- Parties and candidates should be free to contest elections and they should offer some real choice to the voters.
- Elections must be held regularly .
- Candidates preferred by the people should be elected.
- Elections should be conducted in a free and fair manner.