

SUBJECT: POLITICAL SCIENCE II

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MODULE: IV Concept of representation, (c) Pressure Groups

Topic : Types of Pressure Groups

Learning Objective:

- To analyse different types of pressure groups.

Types of Pressure Group

The different types of pressure groups found in India are business groups, trade unions, peasant groups, student groups, teachers' association, caste and religious associations, women's associations, etc.

The Business Groups

The Business group is the most important and organised pressure group in India. They are also most effective. They are independent of the political parties that exist and they have enough resources with which they can safeguard their interests. Business associations have existed in India even before Independence. The important business groups include the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and Associated Chamber of Commerce. They exert varied kinds of pressures, they try to influence planning, licensing bodies and economic ministries. Some business persons are always there in different legislatures at the Central as well as State level. Every Ministry of the Government of India has some kind of consultative committee and business groups are represented there. During pre-budget meetings the Finance Ministry interacts with the groups, to secure suitable inputs which helps in budget formulation.

Trade Unions

The Indian Trade Union movement has rapidly developed. The trade unions were present prior to Independence. Under communist influence, the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) was established in 1920s. The emergence of the communist movement also played an important role in the growth of trade unions in India. In 1948, the Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC) was established. Trade Unions in India are closely affiliated with the political parties; many national political parties have got their own federations of trade unions. In fact no amount of independence from political parties exists in trade unions. They seem to have been able to exert significant pressure at the policy formulation level and their

strength is well recognised by political parties and government. The trade unions when required can be very vocal and militant in their actions to meet their demands. They work through the weapon of strike and have been able to achieve monetary gains in terms of wage increase, bonus, change in wage structure, etc. These type of pressure groups have been able to encourage class consciousness and class solidarity among the workers. We have witnessed over the past few years the trade unions resorting to demonstrations, during the disinvestment by the government in public sector undertakings over the past few years.

Peasants Groups

The rise of peasants groups in India has been mainly due to abolition of Zamindari System, implementation of Panchayati Raj, land reform measures, Green Revolution Movement. They gained power since 1960s. In 1936, the All India Kisan Sabha was established and after 1942 the Communist Party of India acquired control over it. Different parties have got their own peasant organisations. Like the trade unions, there is no peasant organisation which may be independent of party control, though at the State level, their organisations are non-political, independent of the political parties and homogenous. The agriculturists are mainly organised more in regional or local class unions than on all-India basis. Even though there are some important All India Kisan Associations like All India Kisan Congress, All India Kisan Kamgar Sammelan, Akhil Bharatiya Kisan Sangh, peasant groups have been mainly organised on territorial basis.

Their demands relate to procurement prices of agricultural products, fertiliser subsidy, tenancy rights, electricity charges, etc. The Bharatiya Kisan Party (BKP) in Western U.P. is considered the most significant pressure group. The interplay of language, caste factor, weak financial positions, etc. have been greatly responsible for non-emergence of national level pressure groups.

Students Organisations

The student organisations in India have also acted as pressure groups both prior to Independence and after Independence. The All Bengal Students Association was formed in 1928. The All India Students Federation (AISF) was established in 1936. After Independence the political parties continue to be affiliated with student organisations. The All India Students Congress and later on the National Students Union of India (NSUI) are affiliated to the Congress Party. The All India Students Federation and Students Federation of India (SFI), are controlled by Communist Party of India. The Radical Students Union, Democratic Students Union, Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) etc. are all affiliated to different political parties. They try to pressurise governmental policy on various

crucial issues, their activities are not just confined to educational issues. Like the students organisations we also have teachers' associations.

Community Associations

Apart from these there are various community associations in India. These community groups are organised on the basis of caste, class and religion. Some examples of caste organisations are Scheduled Caste Federation, Backward Caste Federation, etc. Amongst other organisations there are some like Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Northern and Southern India Christian Conference, etc. which represent interests that are supposed to safeguard their respective religions.

Reference

<http://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/19146/1/Unit-28.pdf>