DIGITAL ELECTRONIC VOTING MACHINE AND ITS FUTURE SCOPE IN INDIAN ELECTORAL SYSTEM

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Abstract

India is a diverse country, and this diversity has helped to maintain our great democratic system. This system is smoothly running through election process. In recent time, information technology has strongly affects various aspects of our life and to a large extent, this includes politics. Now a days in the country electronic voting system is widely used for voting purpose. But it has some technical issues according to political parties. These problems can be solved by the Digital Electronic Voting Machine (DEVM) system. In these regards I am trying to give the concept about digital voting system and its advantage.

Keywords: Electoral Reform, NOTA, Electronic Voting, Digital voting card system.

Introduction: India has the distinction of being the largest democracy in the world. Elections are the most important and integral part of politics in democratic system of governance. Democracy can include function only upon this faith that elections are free and fair and not rigged and manipulated, that their effective instruments of ascertaining popular will both in reality and inform and are not mere rituals calculated to generate illusion of difference to mass opinion, it cannot survive without free and fair election. Democracy encourages individual freedom according rule of law, so that people may be have express themselves as they choose. Nations aim ate new and improve voting procedures which are of relevance to election in the 21st century, nevertheless, it is impossible to completely rule out the need for technology and electronic voting.

History election reforms in India: Electoral reforms refer to the development and benign change in election process in India in order to facilitate better democracy, clean politics, ideal members of legislative house, equality of representation and so on. Article 324-329 deal with elections and electoral reforms. Electoral reforms are required to uphold the aspiration of our ancestors, to accomplish the ideals of our constitution and to have a true democracy in letter as well as in sprit by conducting fair election. The process of electoral reforms focus mainly on broadening the core meaning of democracy, making its more citizen friendly, implementation of adult suffrage in letter as well spirit.

Before Independence: There was no regular election machinery under the Acts of 1861,1892,1909,1919 and 1935. Only certain stop-gap arrangements were made for the conduct of elections. In fact, no regular election machinery was required till the passage of the Government of India Act of 1909. The election procedure, which we are practicing right now in India, having its evolution in the early part of the twentieth century, with the British made Indian Councils Act, 1909 where the elective element for the natives in the legislative bodies in British India found its introduction. The legislative bodies which are created under the Indian Councils Act, 1909 continued up to 1915, when the Government of India Act, 1915 superseded the earlier Act. Prakash (2010,p.3) says that this Act of 1915 was further amended by the Government of India Act,1919 in order to bring in the reforms, known as Montague-Chelmsford Reforms. Chopra (1984) argues that a clear necessity for a separate election machinery started arising with direct elections provided under the Montague-Chelmsford Reforms of 1919. But unfortunately, this Act also failed to fulfill the demands and expectations of the Indian people. As a result, the British Parliament passed the Government of India Act, 1935. Detailed provisions for the conduct of elections were made only under the Government of India Act of 1935. But the federal scheme as envisaged under the Government of India Act, 1935 was never put in practice and remained a provision only on paper. After the end of Second World War in 1945, Labour Party under the leadership of Clement Atlee came to power in Britain. In August 1946, the elections had been conducted to the Constituent Assembly of India and Congress emerged as the majority party.

After Independence: After independence India had successfully conducted election at both national as well as state levels. The electoral system was largely free from any major flaw but it cracks began to appear at the fourth general election (1967). More began to appear in the fifth general election (1971) and these continued in the successive elections, especially in those held in eighties and thereafter.

Tacking cognizance of these shortcoming several commissions come up with the proposal for reformation of electoral process in India. The important among them were –

1. Goswami Committee on Electoral Reforms (1990)
2. Vohra Committee Report (1993)
3. Indrajit Gupta Committee on State Funding of Elections (1998)
4. Law Commission Report on Reform of the Electoral Laws (1999)

5. National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (2001)

6. Election Commission of India –Proposed Electoral Reforms (2004)

7. The Second Administrative Reforms Commission (2008)

These committees first outlined the alarming divergence and irregularities of the election process and then made reconditions for its   implementation.

Recent Reform: In July 2013 the honorable Supreme Court ruled that parliamentarians and state legislators who were convicted of serious crime, meaning carrying jail term of two years or more would be barred from contesting elections.

NOTA (None of the above): This option was introduce in the electronic voting machines in India after the landmark Judgment delivered by Supreme Court (the apex court in the India judicial system) in PUCL versus UOL. The right to vote in India statuary right. The converse of this i.e. the right not to vote, while maintaining secrecy was claimed vide a petition to the supreme court by PUCL. None of The Above' (NOTA) was introduced for the first time in the 2014 parliamentary elections. A round 60 lakh voters opted for this, which is more than the votes secured by 21 parties, in the 2014 Lok Sabha polls. This equals to 1.1 percent of the total votes polled during these elections across 543 seats. The maximum percentage of the electorate going for this choice was in Puducherry, with 3 percent of total votes polled, which comes to a total of 22,268 votes. This was followed by Meghalaya with 2.8 per cent votes (30,145), Gujarat 1.8 per cent (4, 54, 880)Chhattisgarh 1.8 per cent (2, 24,889), Dadra and Nagar Haveli 1.8 per cent (2,962).The other states with comparatively higher percentage of NOTA includes: Bihar -1.6 per cent (5, 81, 011), Odisha - 1.5 per cent (3, 32, 780) Mizoram - 1.5 per cent(6,495), Jharkhand - 1.5 per cent (1, 90,927), Daman and Diu - 1.5 per cent (1,316).The significant 18,053 NOTA votes were cast in Vadodara, fought by honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Electronic Voting: Electronic voting (EV) comprise the use of a computer rather than traditional use of ballot at polling center by postal mail. It involves the method for a group such as a meeting and electorate to make a decision or express on opinion, usually following discussion debates or election campaigns. It incorporates various type of voting such as kiosks, the internet, telephone, punch card, and mark sense or optical scan ballot. Developed electronic voting machine (EVM) embraced and supported by voters for elections enable to solve problems associated with the traditional paper based voting system. The representation

of the people's acts, 1951, was amended to the facilitated use of electronic voting machine in election. Electronic voting machine (EVMs) were first used in November 1998 in various constituencies in this state of election of Rjasthan, Madhyapradesh and Delhi. EVMs have been widely used in the 15th Lok sabha election 2009.

Used VVPAT: Electoral system more cleanness the demand for a "voter verifiable paper audit trail" (VVPAT) in the EVMs has been around for few years. VVPAT allows voters to verify that their vote was throw correctly, and to provide a means to audit to stored electronic results. It includes a direct recording electronic voting machine (DRE) and a printer to print the ballot recorded in the electronic memory. In VVPAT system the voter can review a physical ballot to confirm that electronic voting system accurately recorded his or her vote. In addition the election officials may manually recount ballots in the event of a dispute. A field trial was conducted in Thiruvananthapuram, Delhi, Jaisalmer, Cherrapunji and Leh in July 2011- in the presence of all stakeholders including political parties, civil society organisations and media. The second field trial was held in July- August 2012 again in the presence of all the stakeholders. All political parties recommended that VVPAT should be used in elections as soon as possible. In this last general election VVPAT will be used in all the booths of the all constituencies.

2. Discussion: In this work I discuss different voting system that are present in India and I saw that the electoral system is not entirely self-reliable which can be understandable by learning the complaints of different electoral groups. Stealing of ballot box, voting duplicity, misusing of EVM etc.

The research scope on this work is that researcher can think about new voting system which overcome those problems and also think how to improve our new voting system. In this work I proposed a new voting system which is digital voting system. The model of that I proposed shown in below

TABLES
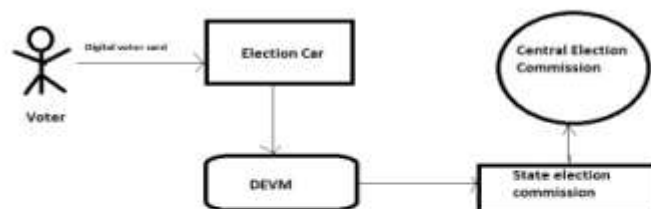
DEVM: Digital Electoral Voting Machine

Digital Electoral Voting Machine (DEVM):

The digital electoral voting machine (DEVM) is a completely sophisticated electoral system, with which to select very fast. Digital electronic voting machines will be operated entirely by the modern digital system. Each voter will be given one digital voter card before the digital electronic voting machine is lunched in the country. This card will contain the voter personal information. After that, the election commission will create a type of car that has all kinds of modern technology. Whom we shall call election car. The digital voting machine will be inside this car. This car will go to every voter on the house, the day appointed by the election commission and the voters can enter the car and vote. When the voter enters his digital card on the machine he will see the names, party names and symbols of all the representatives. Voter push the button that link will go to the state election commissioner and the central election commission. Voter will be received a print copy of the candidate who voted with the voter. So that there will be no rigging in the elections and no long process of declaration of result.

If we can arrange for digital electoral voting machine for future then the benefit that we will get is

  i. Free and fair election that is in the day of election or voting there will be required election

  ii. The huge amount of money that is being spent upon each election that would be reduced

  iii. The bad effect of money power and muscle power can be very much minimize

  iv. Only at that particular day of voting, voter can gives their vote without being present of that particular voting center.

  v. It is possible to complete the election process in a very short time.

  vi. There is no need for more manpower to complete the election process.

  vii. It is possible to announce the result of the election in a very short time.

Conclusion: In present day, though electronic voting machine system faces some problem it is convenient and efficient for election in India but in future it is not good enough for election. We need to make our election system more transparent and efficient. We must

continue to strive for better electoral system, which is able to complete the election process in a very short time. If we use digital system in future it will provide more efficient fruitful result for election. If such a system is brought about, then the democratic system can be liberalized.

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