



5. Surekha is an officer in-charge of ensuring free and fair elections in an assembly constituency in a state. Describe what should she focus on for each of the following stages of election:

- (a) Election campaign
- (b) Polling day
- (c) Counting day

Answer:

- (a) She will have to focus on various duties such as ensure that candidates cannot bribe or threaten voters, expenditure limit is not crossed by a candidate, candidates not appeal to vote in the name of religion or caste, they not use worship place for campaign or use any government resources.
- (b) She will have to crosscheck the voters' list and check ID proof of the voters, booth capturing not tak place. Ensure that Free and fair election should be conducted.
- (c) She have to look on counting is carried out, represntatives of all parties present at counting area in order to avoid malpractices,

6. The table below gives the proportion of different communities among the candidates who won elections to the US Congress. Compare these to the proportion of these communities in the population of the US. Based on this, would you suggest a system of reservations in the US Congress? If yes, why and for which communities? If no, why not?

Answer:

Blacks and Hispanics should be given reservation in the US Congress as per their percentage in the US population.

7. Can we draw the following conclusions from the information given in this chapter? Give two facts to support your position for each of these.

- (a) Election Commission of India does not have enough powers to conduct free and fair elections in the country.
- (b) There is a high level of popular participation in the elections in our country.
- (c) It is very easy for the party in power to win an election.
- (d) Many reforms are needed to make our elections completely free and fair.

Answer:

(a) The Election Commission of India is powerful enough to conduct free and fair elections:

- It implements the code of conduct and punishes any candidate or party that violates it.
- In Elections, Government officials work under the EC and not the government.

(b) There is a high level of popular participation in the elections:

- Voter turnout has increased over the past years.
- Election-related activities in the last few years have seen a larger participation by the people.

(c) It is not very easy for the party in power to win an election:

- The ruling parties routinely lose elections.

- Candidates who are known to spend a lot of money often lose elections.

(d) Certain Reforms are necessary to make our elections completely free and fair:

- To ensure that independents and small parties not suffer in elections.
- To ensure candidates with criminal records not participate.

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