

Q) Rapid criminalisation of politics cannot be arrested by merely disqualifying tainted legislators but should begin by cleansing political parties. Discuss.

A) A criminal entering politics and contesting in elections and even getting elected is referred to as criminalisation of politics. It is a buzzword in the media all around the world. According to ADR 179 out of 543 candidates elected for the parliament have some kind of criminal case pending against them.

Factors responsible for rapid criminalisation of politics:-

India adopted "First past the post" system of elections in India the country where "the candidate with the most votes wins the seat. Even a single vote will make a difference. The quest of the candidate to powers insists him to deliver all-out methods, which are commonly the populist measures of giving gifts and even some times the muscle power, to win, which is the root cause of corruption and there by criminalisation.

So merely disqualifying them is not a solution. For this, we can't decriminalise politics if we can't address the deep root cause of the problem.

Things that can change the status quo:-

1) Judiciary can play a role by declaring the candidates with criminal records as disqualified for contesting in election.

"as parliament can't burn its hand by herself".

In people's union for civil liberties case PIL It had given us the "NOTA". Now there seems to be no reason for judiciary from absconding the issue.

2) people should realise the spectre of criminals in politics who are looming in to their future.

3) Expensive election campaigning favours candidates with strong financial background. Such candidates when elected seek to recover their expenses. So people should aware of it.

Finally the political parties should embark to introduce internal democracy, financial transparency and accountability in working of their parties. As rightly said by Gandhiji: "man becomes great exactly in the degree in which he works for the welfare of his fellow-men". A man can not be a dictator mentally and democratic physically.