

Remote voting.

Supreme Court through its various judgements has made it clear that right to access to vote is an integral part of article 19(1)(a) which guarantees freedom of expression.

But most of the migrant workers particularly circular migrants who migrate to search employment are not able to access this right.

Recently Election Commission of India has come up with a scheme of remote voting.

Benefits

- ECI has proposed to set up remote voting centres in states having high migrant population.
- They can cast their vote through dynamic voting set up in the electronic voting machine, which has the name of the voters of different constituencies
- This will help them to cut the travel cost

which they occur, if they have to vote in their election.

Most of them do not vote because of the insecurity of the work if they travel to vote.

Way forward

→ Extending the e-voting service to migrants through by which they can cast their voting through e-pollot papers can also be considered.

→ New initiatives like 'One nation One voter Id' will help migrants to vote from any place.

Challenges ∴ As EVM do not use internet, the chances of hacking and manipulation them can happen. Various securities should be provided and linking Aadhar authentication with voter ID will do better.

Conclusion ∴

Migrant workers constitute about 37% of the population. They belong to the poor and

marginalised sector. Schemes like remote voting will prevent them from disenfranchisement, and help in securing their rights.