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Governor in Indian Federal System of India

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Introduction:

India is a federal state with strong centre. There are 28 states and 9 Union Territories in India. Indian federal system is unique one. Central Government is deliberately given more powers than state governments. There is unequal division of power between centre and state. States are the product of centre. Governor play important role in Indian federal setup. Governor is the constitutional head of the states in India. He is appointed by the President and hold office during the pleasure of the latter. He is expected to act as impartial and non partisan head of state. But, reality is different. During last seven decades many times role of different Governors became controversial. In recent past role of Governor of Maharashtra Bhagat Singh Koshiyari become controversial. Whenever Governors of States failed to perform their constitutional duties impartially, it hampered the federal system of India. In this paper attempt is made to through light on some decisions taken by the Governor of Maharashtra which affected federal setup.

Objectives:

The objective of this paper is to discuss the role played by Governor of Maharashtra Bhagat Singh Koshiyari during last four years. Some of his decisions became controversial too. Attempt is made to discuss his role critically. It is assumed that role of Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari is not impartial. He acted as agent of Party at the centre, hence he is responsible to political controversies in Maharashtra. His controversial statements hurt the sentiments of Marathi people. He did controversial statements about Ch. Shivaji Maharaj, Mahatma Phule, Savitribai Phule. Even he underestimate Marathi manus. Let us examined his role in this research paper.

Background:

Bhagat Singh Koshiyari was appointed as 22nd Governor of Maharashtra in September 2019. He also served as the member of Loksabha and Rajya Sabha as well as Chief Minister of Uttarakhand for short period in 2001. He is the senior BJP leader. Since October 2019, when hung assembly came into Maharashtra, office of governor is in spotlight. In this paper only issues which are going to affect federal setup are being discussed.

In October 2019 polls for assembly elections held in Maharashtra. Ruling BJP-Shivsena alliance was failed to continue post-poll alliance. After election results BJP-Shivsena failed to come to consensus over the post of Chief minister. Finally three decade old alliance broke and new political equations emerged in Maharashtra. Election result were declared on 24 October 2019. BJP was the single largest party with 105 seats, Shivsena was the second largest party with 56 seats and NCP and Congress got 54 and 44 seats respectively. Thus, BJP become once again the big brother in Maharashtra. BJP leadership started to underestimate the Shivsena. This time Shivsena was very aggressive for the post of chief-ministership. No party or alliance was in a position to form the

Mr. Bhagatsingh Kohyari did derogatory remarks about Mahatma Phule, Ch. Shivaji Maharaj in a public function. Being the constitutional head of the state he should speak with restraint care. Such remarks indicates that, there may be some political motives behind such statements. Due to this approach there was pressure on Central Government to call back Governor from last one year. However no action was taken by the Center. As next year there are Assembly as well as Loksabha polls, Governor decided to quit his position. In Februarys 2023 he resigned the post.

Conclusion:

If the person sitting in the position of Governor do not act as per the spirit and letters of the constitution, our parliamentary democracy is in threat. It is not only the responsibility of one party or person. It is the collective responsibility of ruling as well as opposition parties. When Congress was ruling at the center it also misused the position of Governor, and now same is done by the BJP. So we have to stop such unhealthy practices.

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