

# Endless delay in the formation of City Councils

A month has passed by, since ULB elections and lack of a ruling government has marred the formation of councils.

DEBASIS MOHAPATRA

Bangalore, Oct 24—Nearly a month after the announcement of the results for the Urban Local Body Elections, the councils for these corporations are still to take shape. The councils are not formed due to the delay in notification by the state government regarding the category of the Presidents and the Vice-presidents of these corporations says M.R.Hegde, Karnataka Election Commissioner.

Urban local body elections have taken place in the state on 28th of September and the results were announced on the 30th of that month. But, as new delimitation rules are enforced this time, there is need to amend the Karnataka Municipalities (President and Vice-president) Election Rules, 1965 for determining the category of the respective heads said Hegde. Though the Urban Development Department has been notified about the amendment on 1st of October, the President's rule in the state is delaying its implementation.

In Anekal, one recently elected corporator N.Narayanswamy said, "As there is no government, this issue is taking a lot of time." Category should be decided

the chief-secretary responsible for the whole situation. He apprehended that developmental work would be hampered due to this delay. M.R.Hegde, the state

"As far as the categorization issue is concerned, this comes under the discretion of the state government," he added. "We have already notified the names of the winning candidates."

But he was of the view that this whole issue of categorization

much of problem in this computerization era?" he asked. Of the state government not delegating this power to the election commission, which holds authority over the Rural Local Bodies, he stated political meddling as the prime reason.

But the Under Secretary, Urban Development Department Mr.B.G.Wali has different view on this issue. He said that as this time 35 new local bodies have been added to the list, it needed amendment of the municipality act for categorization, for that reason council formation is being delayed. "There is a power vacuum in the state," he added pointing towards the President's rule.

He added that the amendment procedure would take another 15 days after which the council would be formed.

This limbo in formation of City councils is keeping many civic initiatives at bay. All those promises made in the hustings will take some more time to fructify into reality.



**An indecisive suffrage:** Their votes are yet to deliver a substantial result. Pic Courtesy: The Hindu

much earlier, he added.

A.Udaykumar, a corporator who won the elections from Ward No.12 of the Anekal Taluk held

election commissioner said that power of the Election Commission was limited to the delimitation and fair conduction of the election.

**The state election commission's job ends with delimitation and fair conduction of the election. Categorization is the concern of state government says M.R.Hegde, Karnataka election commissioner.**

should have been worked out before the election, so that council would have been formed in time. In the light of President's rule in the state he viewed that though there was no effective government in the state, the state executive can't hold this matter for indefinite period. "Why are they facing so

## United they stand, divided they fall

SNEHA JHA

Bangalore, Oct 24—When a parliamentary government has a cabinet composed of members or representatives of more than one political party, the alliance is termed as coalition. A coalition government is formed when none of the political parties functional in a parliamentary government are able to obtain a clear and absolute majority in the general election. The members of the political parties sharing identical views and a common set of ideologies forge a cohesive political alliance and cobble together a workable cross-party, majority- exercising cabinet, which represents the members of all allies. As a rule, it is always the largest party in the legislature, which leads the alliance, and its undisputed leader is chosen as the head of the government. The majority bloc formed as the result of the amalgamation of the parties draws up a common minimum programme reflecting the ideological aspirations, goals and objectives aimed at by all the coalition partners.

Coalition government is not a novel term in the lexicon of Indian polity. If viewed from the historical perspective it is not a new development. It has been a part of Indian political scenario for quite some time now. In the aftermath of the general elections held in 1967, coalition government was formed in several states of India. Since then, the nation has witnessed the formation of more than 60 coalition governments both at the center and the state level. In the 12th Lok Sabha elections held in 1998 no party got a clear mandate from the electorate and the fear of hung parliament was looming large on the political spectrum. But BJP,

the single largest party at that moment sought the cooperation of 12 parties having similar political interests.

For the next four years the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance held the political reins of India. This was practically the first time when a coalition government served a full term in office; India made great strides in all spheres of development.

But as an answer to all the apprehensions drifting in air, came the Congress- led United Progressive Alliance comprising of 14 parties. The country has been stupendous economic success under this government. The world has seen the financial might and prowess of Indian business houses; the increase in GDP by 8% has made India an emerging economy in Asia. The country has indeed progressed with coalition model.

A coalition government has several advantages in diverse country like India. A coalition government helps small and regional political party gain representation, participation and prominence in the process of decision and policymaking. They are given a say in matters of governance of the country. And the electorate can judge the parties by their performance. This gives them a wide range of political choices to choose from. It makes the democracy more vibrant. The variability and flexibility of party lines is also beneficial because the cabinet gets the best of everything as it can import ideas from a cross section parties. It boosts democratic representation and authenticity because of the equality of opportunity. The alliance forms a cohesive unity. In the UPA government the head of the

government is a Sikh (minority community), head of the state is a Hindu and the chairperson of the alliance is a roman catholic (Sonia Gandhi). The biggest hurdle in the path of a coalition government is that it is unstable. It is always hard to appease all the partners of the alliance who sometimes resort to political blackmail to bag plum ministries. In the BJP led NDA government AIADMK and Trianmool Congress created several major political crisis. On the nuclear deal issue Left Parties stirred fierce political anxiety for the UPA coalition. Currently the JD(S) and BJP political marriage in Karnataka is on the rocks.

Sometimes as the regional parties have very narrow and parochial views that may lead to friction. But it is the duty of the leader heading the coalition to make sure that everyone gets an equal share of the distribution of the power.

Jyoti Basu, the CPI(M) patriarch has successfully run a coalition in West Bengal for several years. Such governments function on the principle of consensus. Coalition governments are a crucial stage in the evolution of a political party absolute. This was seen when the congress government derailed the democratic process by imposing emergency irrespective of the peoples' opinion on such a draconian measure.

The political allegiance of the Indian electorate is myriad unlike USA where you can either be a Republican or Democratic. Thus, multi-party government is much desirable rather than a single party one under the present circumstances where people have jettisoned the one-size-fits-all kind of policy.

## Smells like keen spirit

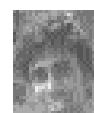
NACHIKETA MAITI



**Stop fretting over your baby, my boy is set to ascend the throne.**

## Your say

**Q: What do you think about the President's rule in Karnataka?**



Venu Manohar, software trainee

"It is unfortunate that there is no government at the state level. Due to this all policy initiatives are stalled,"



Y.V.S. Reddy, software trainee

"Until a decisive mandate emerges out, it is better not to have any coalition government ruling with ulterior motives in its mind,"