

Press Release

29 Recognised Political Parties have not submitted their Donation Details to the ECI

- **Last date for submission of donations report was 30th November, 2014**
- **Only 17 out of 45 recognised regional parties have submitted their contributions reports**
- **BJP is the only National Party yet to file its contribution report to the ECI**
- **Not all national parties have followed the format prescribed by the ECI**

New Delhi: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is the only National Party which has not yet submitted details of the donations above Rs 20,000 to the Election Commission of India (ECI) for the Financial Year 2013-2014. Among the recognised regional parties, only 17 parties out of a total of 45 parties have submitted their contributions reports at the time of this release.

Defaulting Political Parties: The Representation of the People Act, 1951 states that “...the report for the financial year under sub-section (1) shall be submitted by the treasurer of a political party or any other person authorised by the political party in this behalf **before the due date for furnishing a return of its income of that financial year under Section 139 of the Income-tax Act, 1961 (43 of 1961), to the Election Commission.**”. As the due date for submission of the parties’ audited IT Returns was 31st Oct,’14, **BJP and 28 Regional Recognised parties have defaulted on their donations report by more than a month.** It is to be noted that **BJP had declared the maximum amount of Rs 83.19 crores from 2941 donations** during the Financial Year 2012-13.

Submission of Contribution Reports by National Parties: It is seen that BSP had declared that **no donation above Rs 20,000 was received by the party** during FY 2013-14 and filed the report on **13th Sept,’14**, while **NCP had filed its report on 17th Sept,’14**, and declared **donations from 15 donors.** **CPI had filed its report on 23rd Sept,’14** and declared receiving donations above Rs 20,000 from **44 donors.** **CPM and INC filed their donations report on the 30th Sept,’14** and declared donations from **70 and 712 donors respectively.**

Inconsistencies in the Format used: While analysing the donations reports of National Parties it is seen that **INC has not followed the format prescribed by the ECI in declaring its donations details.** The **column for declaring PAN details of donors is not provided in the contributions reports.** Without the PAN details, it would be **difficult to link the donors against their donations and hence trace the money trail.**

There are 182 donations to INC via bank transfer where the **details of bank transfer (name of bank, location, etc) and the PAN details of the donors are unavailable.** Also, there are a total of **64 donations made by cash** to INC which contain **no details of PAN, hence will remain untraceable.**

Recommendations of ADR

For greater transparency and accountability in the functioning and finances of political parties, it is crucial for the parties to submit their donations statements in the format specified by the ECI apart from filing the same within the time limit set by the ECI. This can be achieved by making the submission of donations statement **mandatory for all political parties** rather than only for the purpose of claiming tax exemption.

ADR also recommends that the details of **all donors to Electoral Trusts should also be available in the public domain** to increase transparency of funding of political parties.

Contacts

Media and Journalist
Helpline

+91 80103 94248
Email: adr@adrindia.org

Maj Gen Anil Verma (Retd.)
Head

National Election Watch and
Association for Democratic
Reforms
+91 8826479910
anilverma@adrindia.org

Prof Jagdeep Chhokar
IIM Ahmedabad (Retd)
Founder Member National
Election Watch, Association for
Democratic
Reforms
+919999620944
jchhokar@gmail.com

Prof Trilochan Sastry
IIM Bangalore
Founder Member,
National Election Watch,
Association for Democratic Reforms
+919448353285,
trilochans@iimb.ernet.in