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Public Participation and Accountability: A Must for Good Governance



Darbara Singh Kahlon
State Information Commissioner
Punjab

Our governments have failed to provide even the basic amenities of life such as education, health, electricity, clean potable water, road connectivity, sanitation etc to large population of the country. Politicians and political parties had been making promises to provide clean and honest government but have failed to do so.

The country needs young, dynamic, farsighted, disciplined and dedicated leadership at all levels of governance. The leaders have to be honest, farsighted and adopt a disciplined approach towards formulation and implementation of development projects. The country has produced great leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru who provided leadership, enthusiasm and will to create a modern India.

There is rampant corruption in all the walks of national life. As long as our leaders, bureaucrats and the Ministers do not exhibit the virtue of honesty, patriotism, public service, all this seems impossible. There is an immediate need to introduce accountability mechanism at all administrative levels. Even the conduct of the ministers should be scrutinized.

Public participation is utmost important for bringing about transparency and accountability in the working system. The initiative of Government of India in the shape of Right to Information Act and the resultant constitution of National and State level Information Commissions, is likely to play a vital role in bringing about transparency and accountability in the working of the government.

Electoral reforms can prove highly beneficial for electing better public representatives to govern. These reforms have to ensure that use of black money, muscle power, intoxicants and governmental machinery at the time of elections is completely stopped. There is a need to empower the Election Commission to prepare and submit a report on the working of the ruling and the opposition parties as well as the candidates.

There is no dearth of manpower or physical resources in our country. If the country can register 7 to 9 percent GDP growth rate despite various shortcomings in the system, it can certainly achieve double digit growth if we have a dynamic, selfless, dedicated, and disciplined bureaucracy and public representatives to manage the economy.