

Analysis of Political Parties in the Lok Sabha Elections 2009 to 2019: In the Context of Rajasthan State

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ABSTRACT

The secondary data which is the base of this analysis, the voting in reserved-unreserved Lok Sabha seats in Rajasthan has been researched. The data of Lok Sabha elections 2009, 2014 and 2019 have been used. The average voter turnout in the Lok Sabha elections 2009 was 48.46%, whereas the average turnout in 2014 was 63.11% thereafter the average turnout in 2019 was 66.34%. The average turnout increased by 17.88% during this period. The polling in general and reserved seats has been analysed on the basis of the votes received by the political party. In the Lok Sabha elections held since 2008, the highest turnout was recorded in the Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and General Lok Sabha seats respectively, with the major political parties getting the highest average votes being the BJP and the Congress respectively. Since the last two Lok Sabha elections 2014-2019, the number of votes received by the BJP has increased while the number of votes received by the Congress has decreased.

Key Words : Reserved-unreserved, Analysis, Lok Sabha elections, Political party.

Short word:

BJP- Bhartiya Janata Party

COI- Communist Party of India

UN- Unreserved

INC- Indian National Congress

CPM- Communist Party of India (Marxist)

Sc- Scheduled Castes

BSP- Bahujan Samaj Party

RLTP- Rashtriya Loktantrik Party

ST- Scheduled Tribes

INTRODUCTION

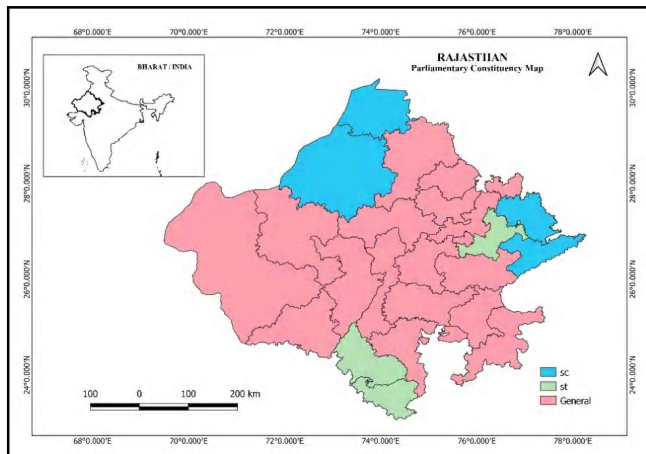
Article 81 of the Constitution of India provides for determining the place in the Lok Sabha and dividing the state into territorial constituencies. In 1951 seats were determined in Parliament and Legislative Assemblies for the first time ever.

After the publication of 1961 census data, the process of delimitation was started. On April 25, 1966, the Delimitation Commission fixed 23 Lok Sabha seats in Rajasthan. Delimitation based on the 1971 census was done in 1976, thereafter the number of seats and their territorial boundaries were withheld. On 25.1.2006, 25 Lok Sabha seats and 200 Assembly seats were earmarked by the Delimitation Commission in Rajasthan. Out of 25

Lok Sabha seats, four seats are reserved for Scheduled Castes and three for Scheduled Tribes (Map 1). In Rajasthan, out of 200 assembly constituencies, 34 seats are reserved for Scheduled Castes and 25 for Scheduled Tribes. According to delimitation 2006, one Lok Sabha constituency has created by combining 8 assembly constituencies. Rajasthan has divisional arrangements. The maximum number of Lok Sabha seats are 6 in Jaipur division and the minimum seats are 2 seats each in Bharatpur and Kota divisions (Table 1).

Total electorates in Rajasthan were recorded 50943022 (Male 24410235 and female 26532787) in January 2022. Out of them the highest numbers contributed from Pali Lok Sabha constituency *i.e.*, 2229684 (male voters 1161367 and female voters

1068317). Apparently, the lowest number of voters in Dausa (ST) Lok Sabha constituency is 1807370 (male voters 956227 and female voters 851143).



Map1: Category-wise Lok Sabha Parliamentary constituencies in Rajasthan

Table 1 : Region wise Parliament constituency in Rajasthan state

Region	Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes	Unreserved	Total Seats
Jaipur	0	1	5	6
Bharatpur	2	0	0	2
Ajmer	0	0	4	4
Kota	0	0	2	2
Bikaner	2	0	1	3
Udaipur	0	2	2	4
Jodhpur	0	0	4	4
Total	4	3	18	25

Source- Election Commission of India

METHODOLOGY

This study mainly focuses on Lok Sabha elections 2009-2019. All the data has been taken from reports, journals, magazines, Election Commission of India, Office of the Chief Election Officer, Rajasthan Census Directorate, research papers, dissertations, major books, newspapers and articles published by the Central and State Government. Maps, diagrams, tables have been used with the help of quantitative and descriptive methods for their analysis.

Study area :

Rajasthan State: Lok Sabha elections 2009, 2014 and 2019.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In the theory of electoral competition, a citizen will compare the parties of the candidate and then vote for the candidate they support according to their personal preferences. If voters are not aware of the politician’s characteristics, rational citizens will often evaluate candidates based on their past performance results. This voting behavior is called “Backdating” voting by academics (Ferejohn, 1986). Examining voters’ preferences for the Indian National Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) by age, class, and caste shows that each party prioritizes these three factors (Kailash, 2014). In India, identification of voters with the candidate is highly effective. The high proportion of independent MLAs in state-level elections and the increasing incidence of defections in major parties point to the influence of personality bias in voting decisions. The influence of party and caste is greater than socio-economic characteristics such as occupation, age, income, literacy status, etc.

Lok Sabha elections (2009 to 2019):

Rajasthan has a political two-party system, the Indian National Congress (INC) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) being the main competitors. However, if one studies the results of all the elections held in the 21st century so far, a different picture emerges. In the four Lok Sabha elections held from 2004 to 2019, the BJP has got around 45% of the votes and the Congress only a little over 37%. Although the Congress and the BJP remain the two main political parties in Rajasthan, the results of the 2018 assembly election vindicated the trend of regular change between the two major parties, but the Congress’ victory negligible (Lodha and Jain, 2019). Political parties form alliances before elections to get a majority. So that voters in the state can be presented with two clear options. While regional parties play opportunistic roles in Sultana (2020), Kumar (2003) and Venkatesu (2019). The voters wanted those issues such as social security, education, women empowerment, mitigating distress in agriculture and protecting the rights and entitlements of backward castes/tribes need to be taken forward by Venkatesu (2019) (Table 2).

In the 2009 Lok Sabha elections, the average voter turnout was 48.46%, with the Congress party getting the highest votes at 47.19% and the BJP at 36.57%. The highest voter turnout was recorded in the Scheduled Tribe area. Out of the total 25 seats, the highest number of

Table 2 : Category wise classification of votes received by political parties in Lok Sabha election 2009

Category	Average Voting (%)	BJP	BSP	CPI	CPM	INC	Others
UN.	48.23	38.98	3.3	0.15	1.26	48.77	1.16
SC.	45.1	39.03	5.2	0	2.59	48.22	0.99
ST.	54.62	20.63	1.8	1.15	0	37.31	7.88

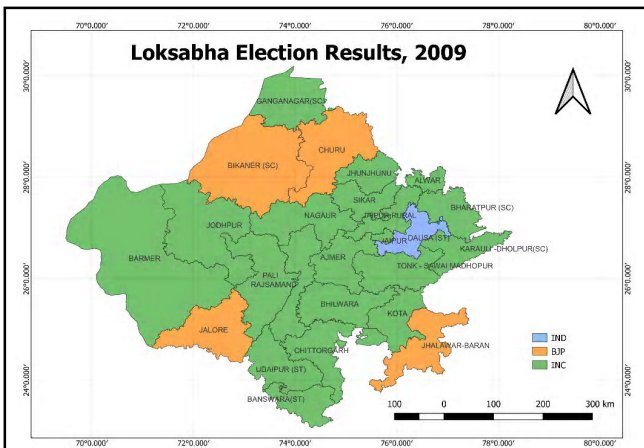
Source- Election Commission of India

seats were won by the Indian National Congress Party (20), four by the BJP and one by an independent candidate (Dausa Lok Sabha constituency) with 87.85% votes (Map 2). In this election, the highest number of votes from the general and scheduled caste category were received by the Congress party, BJP and BSP, respectively and the highest number of votes from the Scheduled Tribe category, respectively, the BJP, Congress Party and BSP, respectively (Table 3).

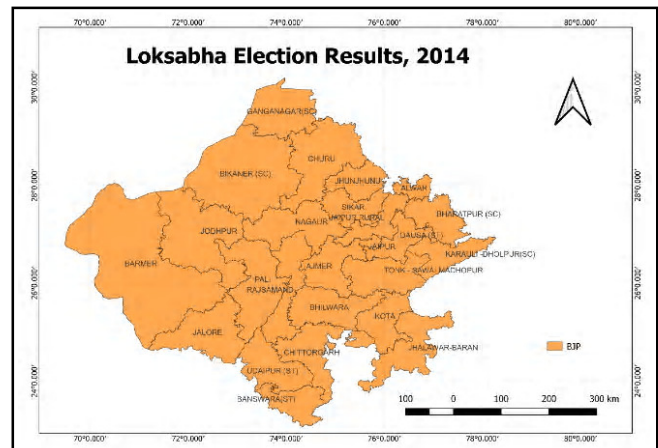
In the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, the average voter turnout was 63.11%, with the highest number of votes being received by the BJP at 55.61% and the Indian

National Congress at 30.73%. The BJP won all the 25 seats (Map 3). The BJP has got the highest number of votes from general Lok Sabha constituencies. There has been an increase in the vote percentage in reserved seats as compared to 2009 while the vote percentage of the Indian National Congress has been decreased (Table 4).

The average voter turnout in the Lok Sabha elections 2019 was 66.34%, in which the highest votes were received by BJP at 59.07% and the Indian National Congress at 34.59%. Compared to the Lok Sabha elections 2014, the vote percentage of both BJP and Indian National Congress has increased. In the 2019 Lok Sabha



Map2: Lok Sabha Elections 2009: Winning Political Parties and Independents



Map3: Lok Sabha Elections 2014: winning Political parties

Table 3 : Category wise classification of votes received by political parties in Lok Sabha election 2014

Category	Average Voting (%)	BJP	BSP	CPI	CPM	INC	Others
Un.	59.46	59.33	2.73	0.19	0.34	30.98	2.39
Sc.	60.98	55.70	1.46	0	0.37	33.86	6.28
St.	65.37	47.12	1.93	1.02	0	33.09	10.80

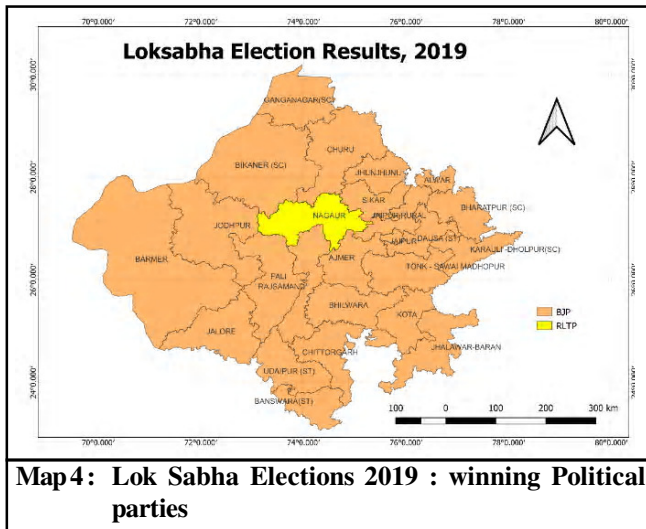
Source: Election Commission of India

Table 4 : Category wise classification of votes received by political parties in Lok Sabha election 2019

Category	Average Voting (%)	BJP	BSP	CPI	CPM	INC	Others
Un.	66.76	59.05	0.89	0.04	0.23	34.03	3.60
Sc.	62.20	59.39	1.71	0	0.19	36.24	0.48
St.	68.50	53.90	1.40	0.50	0	33.10	8.80

Source- Election Commission of India

elections, BJP won 24 and BJP supported state level Political Party, RLTP in Nagaur received 54.86% votes (Map 4). Compared to the Lok Sabha elections 2014, the vote percentage of both BJP and Indian National Congress parties has increased (Table 5).



Map 4: Lok Sabha Elections 2019 : winning Political parties

Table 5 : Class-wise classification of votes received by political parties BJP and Congress from Lok Sabha elections 2009 to 2019

Category	BJP			INC		
	2009	2014	2019	2009	2014	2019
Un.	38.98	59.33	59.05	48.77	30.98	34.03
Sc.	39.03	55.7	59.39	48.22	33.86	36.24
St.	20.63	47.12	53.9	37.31	33.09	33.1

Source- Election Commission of India

The voting behavior of voters can be understood on the basis of socio-economic characteristics of those constituencies. The last two decades have seen ups and downs in support for political parties in Indian politics, underscoring the fluctuation in voter choice between successive elections. A strong anti-incumbency wave at both the state and national levels has resulted in a complete dominance against the ruling party (for example, the 1989 Lok Sabha and 1998 Assembly elections in Rajasthan). On the one hand, it is indicative of the increasing political awareness of voters, in which voters evaluate the performance of the ruling government and register a protest against the ruling party in elections, Jalan and Gurjar (2006). In the 2008 assembly elections, the Indian National Congress Party got a majority in the state and in the 2009 Lok Sabha elections, the party won 20 out of 25 seats. In the 2013 Assembly elections, the

BJP got a majority and in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP won all the 25 seats. In the 2018 assembly elections, the Indian National Congress Party got a majority, but in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the party did not get a single seat and all the 25 Lok Sabha seats were won by the candidates of BJP or allies. This is the result of increasing voter awareness and influence of social media and immense support for BJP among the youth. In the last three Lok Sabha elections, the Indian National Congress Party has seen a decrease in the number of votes received from every category, while the Bharatiya Janata Party has registered a huge increase in the number of votes received from every category (Fig. 1 and 2).

Conclusion:

Between 2009 and 2019, the average turnout (from 48.46 to 66.34) increased by 17.88%. The highest average voting was consistently recorded in Scheduled Tribe, Scheduled Caste and General Lok Sabha constituencies respectively. Since the 2009 Lok Sabha elections, there has been a steady increase (21.90%) in the number of votes received by the BJP, this increase (33.27%) has been in the Scheduled Tribe areas (Fig. 1). There has been a decrease (12.95%) in the number of votes received by the Congress party and this decrease has happened in general and scheduled caste Lok Sabha

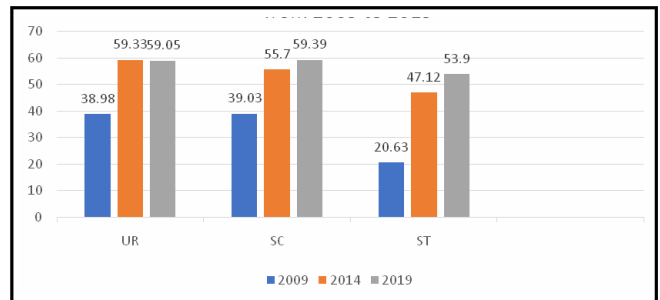


Fig. 1 : Category wise classification of votes received by BJP from 2009 to 2019

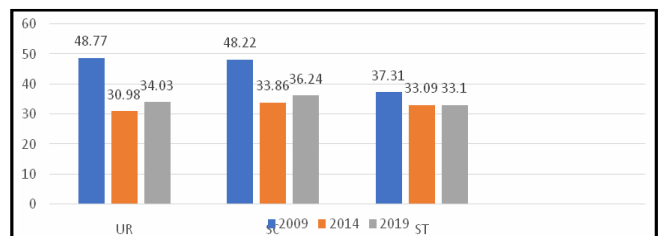


Fig. 2 : Category wise classification of votes received by congress from 2009 to 2019

constituencies (Fig. 2). In Rajasthan, the BJP has achieved the feat of winning two consecutive elections of “Mission 25”. There is no sub-region in the state where the party has no longer been able to make inroads. Similarly, its social potential has also become quite wide. The social and geographical base of the Congress is shrinking (Table 5).

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