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Mass poaching has started in Karnataka

Prashanth G N, TNN, Oct 23, 2010, 01:01am IST

BANGALORE: Is there a deep-rooted problem with our democratic system, by which candidates are MLAs, and then move from one party to another in political self-interest? Political analyst and pro-**v** Shastri shares his views on the churning in Karnataka's politics:

Q Your perspective on poaching politics in Karnataka ...

A Poaching began in the 60s, I believe, in Haryana. It was called Aya **Ram Gaya Ram** politics. In the opposition, splinter groups emerged in North India, and defections began between Congress and Ja keen on the anti-defection law. The challenge was its practical implementation. Poaching in Karnata first seen after 1983 when the Janata Party emerged victorious. In the late 1990s, BJP emerged stroi competitive between the Congress, Janata Dal and BJP. Poaching worsened after 2005, with the BJ Operation Lotus. Wholesale, mass poaching, including resigning and joining other parties in Karnat we may be the first state to have introduced it.

This strategy circumvents the anti-defection law.

Yes, it does. Under the law, an individual legislator cannot move to another party. He has to garner t best option is to resign and join the other party. Law alone is not enough to preserve ethics in politic

How does the defecting legislator relate to his voters after changing parties?

If you're a disqualified MLA, you won't be able to contest for a certain number of years. But if you ar on an important principle, you can go back to your constituency. V P Singh resigned from Rajiv Gan Bahuguna also did it.

What is the confidence they will be voted in again?

The party structure in **India** is largely personality-based. If the personality of an individual is overlw belongs to. Until a few years ago, Bangarappa was winning from Sorab regardless of whether he was of a weak party system. Today's top BJP, Congress and JD leaders have moved from one party to an important, politics allows candidates to change their coats.

What is the solution to defection ?

Ultimately, the solution lies with the voter. Just as candidates have won, they have lost too. After Op Yogeshwar, who moved from Congress to the BJP, lost in Channapatna.

What does it say about our political parties?

For a citizen, there is no great difference between parties. It is convenient for candidates to hop part priorities and ideologies. Politics is personality-based, not issue-based, and pushes issues to the back. Development will be hit.

What is the solution?

The internal structure of political parties has to be democratized very urgently. Grassroot workers are not merely the high command of parties. A law and popular pressure to regulate functioning of political

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