

## **PARTY SYSTEM**

Party system is defined as the conduct of government based on the number of political parties constitutionally allowed to operate within the country.

### **TYPES OF PARTY SYSTEM**

#### **ONE PARTY SYSTEM**

One party system means when only one legal and legitimate party is constitutionally recognized in the country eg communist countries

#### **Merits of One Party System**

1. it prevent wastage of economic resources
2. It provides a strong government
3. it gives room for political stability
4. No election violence
5. It removes unhealthy political rivalry
6. Non-occurrence of rigging
7. Ability to make quick decisions
8. It leads to economic development

#### **Demerits of One Party System**

1. it can enthrone dictatorship
2. There is no opposition party to challenge the party in power.
3. It is undemocratic
4. It violates human rights

5. It limits political education
6. One party system neglect public opinion

## **TWO PARTY SYSTEMS**

This is a situation in which two political parties are legally and constitutionally allowed to operate or two major political parties dominate in winning substantial portion of the votes and the government alternatively. Britain, USA, Canada, Australia etc adopted two-party system.

### **Merits of Two Party Systems**

1. It is more democratic
2. There is room for choice for the people
3. It prevents the emergency of dictators
4. The presence of strong opposition makes the ruling party to be effective and efficient
5. Provision of watchdog to the government by opposition party
6. Stable political system is more guaranteed
7. It gives opportunity for the change of government due to the periodic election

### **Demerits of Two Party Systems**

1. It leads to the division of the country into two factions which may affects the national unity
2. It can cause disunity

3. It causes unhealthy rivalries
4. Election malpractices can spring up because both party want to win
5. It is expensive to operate
6. Waste of the national resources

### **MULTI PARTY SYSTEMS**

This is a system in which more than two political parties are allowed to compete for political power and govern the country. The good example of this system is Nigeria where we have many political parties

#### **Merits of Multi Party Systems**

1. It is more democratic
2. Availability of choice
3. It widens political education of the people
4. There can be coalition government
5. It prevents dictators
6. Protection of human rights
7. It gives room for regular periodic election
8. There is an avenue for wider representation

#### **Demerits of Multi Party Systems**

1. Wastage of national resources
2. Rigging of election
3. Election violence
4. Unhealthy rivalry among the people
5. It can cause political instability
6. It encourages corruption in the parliament
7. It is very expensive to run

**ASSIGNMENT:** Explain the terms:

1. De facto one party system and De jure one party system
2. Explain the types of one party system
3. What is zero party system and state its merits and demerits