



Press Release

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CAIT Urged Prime Minister Modi to make mandatory educational qualification of candidates in elections*

Adding a new link to the One Nation One Election vision of electoral reforms initiated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) today sent a memorandum to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi urging him to improve democracy in the country suggesting that the time has come when at least some educational qualification should be made mandatory for the candidates standing in the elections. CAIT has also sent similar letters to all the national and state level parties of the country. The CAIT has decided to start a public discourse on this issue with various trading, social and cultural organisations beside people of intelligentsia sector of different fields, from October 31, the birthday of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

CAIT National President Shri BC Bhartia and Secretary General Shri Praveen Khandelwal said that PM Modi is known for bringing various initiatives & reforms in different sectors and certainly election reforms are one of his main priority. Both the leaders said that in 1951, when the Constitution was being made, the literacy rate in the country was only 18 percent and probably keeping the same in mind, the makers of the Constitution had not fixed the educational qualification at that time but they inserted Article 84 (C) of the Constitution which provides that any additional qualification can be added to the eligibility for contesting elections under any law passed by the Parliament. This gives the impression that somewhere the issue of educational qualification must have been in the mind of the makers of the Constitution.

In the letter sent to Prime Minister Shri Modi, it has been said that today educational eligibility is mandatory for any government or non-government job in the country, then those who are elected in Parliament, Assembly and local bodies and on whose shoulders the country rests, It is very important for the people who have the responsibility of running a state or city, to have educational qualification so that the administration can become more efficient and live up to the aspirations of the common man of the country.

Shri Bhartia and Shri Khandelwal said that technology has developed rapidly across the country in the last years under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Modi and in such a situation, if the educational qualification of the candidates is also included, then definitely the politics of the country will become more mature and responsible.

Mr. Bhartia and Mr. Khandelwal said that at least a degree, diploma or skill related specialty in some field should be made mandatory for filing nomination papers. They said that these positive changes are important for the overall development of a country like India. Corruption, black money which has been minimised and poverty are affecting the development of the country can be effectively tackled by an efficient political system, where minimum educational qualification will bring more quality in decisions and administration will also be more efficient.

Shri Bhartia and Shri Khandelwal suggested that the Government either may form a high level committee on this subject which would include educationists, constitutional experts and other people of people of the civil society or the issue can be referred to High powered Committee under the chairmanship of former President Shri Ramnath Kovind to deliberate upon One Nation-One Election issue

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