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Legal experts on 'One Nation, One Election'

'Saves money and time'

Ashok Maranahalli, former Advocate-General
It is the need of the hour to hold simultaneous elections to Assemblies and Parliament, for which major amendments should be made to the Constitution. If President's rule is imposed, there is a provision in the Constitution to hold fresh elections. The terms of different state assemblies end at different times. Hence, the amendment is necessary. If elections are held simultaneously, there is no need for State Election Commissions. The present system affects governance for about 45 days due to the Model Code of Conduct. State governments have to put new policies on hold, but can also take advantage by announcing policies to please voters just before elections. It is a huge burden on the exchequer. Enlisting teachers frequently for poli duty can be avoided. Similarly, security personnel can be allowed to track crime, instead of focusing on elections. In the interest of governance, simultaneous elections can be held in a democratic set-up.

'Impossible in federal structure'

Prof Ravivanna Kumar, former Advocate-General
'One Nation, One Election' is an impossibility in a parliamentary system where every government is accountable. In a federal country, one cannot demand one election. When the basic fabric of the Constitution is changed, it will lead to an American system where there is no by-election. India is a land of diversity which should be maintained by allowing each culture to have its say. For example, if the government takes an anti-Kannada stand, it will be ousted, as was done during the Gokak movement. This is not possible if the 'one election' system is introduced. The existing system is necessary to protect diversity and to prevent a 'Hindi government' from disturbing non-Hindi states. It is an attempt by somebody who secured a brute majority. That is why Dr B R Ambedkar had, on November 25, 1949, warned that any government which secures a brute majority is likely to degenerate into dictatorship. We are seeing evidence of it by discussing this idea.