

Supreme Court on Black Money in Elections

The Supreme Court recently made observations emphasizing the Election Commission's role in curbing black money in elections.

Black money in elections refers to unaccounted or untaxed funds used in the electoral process through non-transparent channels.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- The **Supreme Court** highlighted that elections must reflect the **free and informed choice** of citizens, not illicit financial influence.
- The Court placed significant responsibility on the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** to curb the use of **unaccounted money**.
- It emphasized **time-bound investigation**, seizure reporting, and **speedy disposal** of election-related financial offences.
- Forms of black money include **cash-for-vote**, distribution of liquor/gifts, under-reporting expenditure, and **hawala transactions**.
- **Money power** can alter **voter behavior**, distort competition, and create a nexus between political power, crime, and private interests.

DID YOU KNOW..!?

The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** is an autonomous constitutional body established under **Article 324** of the Constitution.

The **ECI** is responsible for conducting elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, **State Legislative Assemblies**, and the offices of President and Vice-President.

The **Chief Election Commissioner** and Election Commissioners are appointed by the **President of India**.

They hold office for a term of **six years** or until they attain the age of **65 years**, whichever is earlier.

The **Representation of the People Act, 1951**, deals with the conduct of elections, administrative machinery, and **electoral offences**.

The **Indrajit Gupta Committee (1998)** recommended **state funding of elections** to curb the role of money power.

The **Vohra Committee (1993)** highlighted the **nexus between politicians, bureaucrats, and criminals**.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Supreme Court emphasized ECI's role in curbing black money in elections under Article 324.

Syllabus Relevance: High: Supreme Court rulings, ECI functions, and electoral reforms are core TNPSC Polity topics.

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