CHAPTER - I

INTRODUCTION

There have been many revolutions in the twentieth century. The most important revolution among them is in relation to the mind of men, which opened new vistas in the study of political science. Earlier, political science deals with the study of the state and its institution. The subject was studied, analysed through normative, philosophical, historical, legal and institutional approaches.

But these approaches were far away from factual context. Therefore, political scientist made an effort to study political science on scientific line which gave more emphasis on "process", than form, tend to find out what "is" than what "ought" to be. The shift was from non-empiricism to empiricism, subjective to objective.

In the process of making scientific theory, the first problem of political science was with the location of its unit of analysis. The notion of individual as independent social unit, so popular in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, is now viewed as affirmation of moral principle than a description of facts. The goals of individual cannot pursued apart from the association with others who share them and are willing to act on them.

The associational basis of personal life in no way diminishes the moral concepts of the individual by merely shifts the locus of analysis to a more realist level.
In most societies, the individual's relationship with others is mediated and expressed through groups rather than through direct personal contact and experience. The more complex society the less likely it is that one can participate in or even comprehend the numerous parts of which it is constituted. Conversely, the impact of society on the individual is limited by the group and the role, positions, he occupies.

"Pressure group" has become the object of considerable dispute among political scientists, by "Pressure Group" we mean a group of individuals who are linked by particular bonds of concern or advantage, and who have some awareness of these bonds. The structure of the pressure group may be organized to include continuing role performances – by intermittent awareness of the group interest on the part of individual.¹

Myron Weiner warned, nothing can be more destructive of democratic culture than conception of national interest, which deprives special interest of the opportunity to bargain and enter creatively in the political process.²

Significance of pressure groups increases more in the political life of every organized modern society, particularly of those societies which have adopted a democratic model of political system, because of its pluralistic in nature. There exist a large number of groups which play a direct role and which compete for gaining influence over public policy and decision making.
Pressure group in one form or another exist in all systems of
government in recent times owing to rapid advance of science and
technology and complexity of socio-economic life they have brought in.3

The most important thing about groups is that they are self
conscious. This means that members of groups perceive important
differences between “we” and “they”. This phenomenon has been often
been described as the “out group” and “in group” feeling.

The specific mechanism by which attitudes become a part of
political culture and subsequently came to effect the structure and
functioning of interest articulation. The specialization of labour leads to
formation of large number of special interest which can be the basis of
formation of pressure groups.

The emergence of mass media, more extended bureaucracy and
other political structure provide a special additional channels through
which emergent groups can act. Thus pressure groups have become an
integral part of the democratic process, they perform a variety of useful
and essential functions. Since they are specialists in their fields of
activity, pressure groups are able to provide legislators and
administrators with technical information not easily available.

A pressure group, for instance, having an interest in and
knowledge of the automobile industry is able and better than any body
else to supply detailed information about the various aspects of its
products. By supplying technical information, pressure groups facilitates modern legislative and administrative processes.

Pressure groups 'invent' and 'initiate' policy. They point out the need for legislation or administrative action, and amendment of legislation or regulations. They, thus provide the politics of policy that parties are unable to do themselves.

Pressure groups often challenge government's policy and conversely render government an idea as how various groups, and through them, people will accept the new programmes and legislation. Pressure groups also help to crystallize public opinion and stimulate discussion on public issues.

Pressure groups super impose upon geographical representation a rough kind of functional representation which provides for representation in terms of individuals as members of legally recognized social economic units rather than as inhabitants of specified territory. The representative role of pressure groups are indicated by the popular reference of the lobby as the 'third house' of legislature.

The major political function of pressure group in all systems is to manage the flow of information between government and governed, that is, to provide an orderly structuring of input (political) and output (governmental) process. Other functions performed by pressure groups include expression of certain community values, articulation of demands that may be ignored by the party system or formal agencies of
government, translation of social and economic power into public policy, provision of outlets for members, social emergence and protection of interests from competing demands.⁴

Pressure group may be defined as formally organized group of people, sharing a common interest that tries to influence government and political parties, particularly the ruling party, for the attainment of its goal without participating in electoral process. Non-participation in decision making process is the feature that distinguishes a pressure group from political parties. It attempts to control or influence the formulation and execution of policy and making of public decision in order to protect and enhance its interests.

Pressure groups in their wider connotation are called interest groups and yet there are subtle academic distinctions between the two. Interest group forms part of a cluster of terms interchangeably with “pressure group” and ‘lobby’ at the center and “organized group”, “private organisation” and “catalytic” group at the circumference.⁵ Organised interests although identified generally as pressure groups are also addressed as interest groups, political groups, lobby, syndicate or even invisible government. These terminological differences arises on account of diverse approaches of the thinkers of the subject have made. However, the following definitions deserve a careful examination, Interest groups are all groups or associations which seek to influence public
policy in their own chosen direction, while declining to accept direct
responsibility for ruling the country”.

The second problem with the term pressure groups is that by some
it is used as term of abuse and not as a neutral description. The
suspicion engendered by pressure group politics is of groups attempting
to subvert the process of representative government through dark and
secretive intrigues, a view widely held particularly in Britain.6

The term “lobby” is often regarded as being derogatory as pressure
group and it has the further disadvantage that it carries, the connotation
that legislature forms the main target for lobby activity.

David Truman has differentiated between interest group and
‘political interest group’. He writes that: “If and when (an interest group)
makes its claims through or upon any of the institutions of government,
it becomes a political interest group”. When interest group act at the
political level they are called pressure group. Lobbying means men
action to influence government decision.7 The British scholars like
S.E.Finer and N.C.Hunt have described the same idea or activity almost
in identical words by using different terms.8

Pressure group should not be confused with lobbying. The term
lobbying originated in American Governmental experience in about
1830. Certain representatives of pressure groups loitered in the lobbies
of the assembly halls of American Congress and state legislatures hoping
to get a chance to speak to legislators and thereby attempting to
influence their decisions. All lobbying is motivated by a desire to influence. Many actions and events may effect the outcome at governmental decisions, but if they are not accompanied by an intent to influence, there is no lobbying.

Broadly defined, lobbying is the stimulation and transmission at communications, by someone other than a citizen acting, on his own behalf, directed to a governmental decision maker with the hope of influencing his decision. 9

The Encyclopaedia of social sciences distinguishes “interests” according to objectives and “pressure” according to techniques used. “Every group is an interest group or a group with an interest, but not every group attempts to influence public policy. Here we shall use the terms “pressure groups or political interest groups” to refer to groups which endeavour to influence public policy”. 10

Ordinarily, the term “pressure group” is used to designate private non-governmental associations and organizations exerting pressure on governmental agencies. Thus seen, an interest group leads to the formation of a pressure group.

In the Indian political system it is very difficult to draw a distinct line between an interest group and a pressure group, because they convert themselves according to the need of the hour. Pressure groups are usually divided into sub-categories, such as business, labour...
farmers and professional associations like those of doctors and lawyers. It is as well to remember that classification by cause of interest is only one method of classification of pressure groups and that the methods used by the groups, or the organizational structure of the groups provide other basis for classification. Typologies based on pressure content: probably the most common classification used by American writers has been based on socio-economic sectors. The pressure of universe is typically divided into such sectors as agriculture, labour, business, the profession, and "other" with each susceptible to much variation in subdivision. British writers on the other hand, have usually adopted a more general set of categories. They distinguish between sectional groups, such as labour or business, which reflect the great "interest" of society and cause or promotional groups organized to express a particular polity objective.

This difference is in fact reflects not only the differences between the two types of groups but also most importantly the way in which government officials relate themselves to the private organization.¹¹

In modern societies competition from numerous organized groups is too great to permit a high degree of successful articulation by non-associational groups. Institutional interest groups occupy particularly powerful position in the society because of the strength provided by their organizational base. The prominent part played by military cliques, bureaucratic groups, and party leaders in articulating interests in
underdeveloped areas, where associational interest groups are limited in number or ineffective in action. The associational interest groups are the specialized structure for interest articulation, trade unions, organization of businessmen or industrialists, non-associational groups are ethnic associations, associations organized by religious denominations and civic groups.

In democracies, the political party and pressure group have become major institutions in varying importance. Both are extra constitutional organizations, while the political party seeks governmental power through the electoral process, the pressure group tries to achieve its objectives by influencing the decision making agencies of government.

The political parties commitments are on broad questions of policy, unlike pressure groups, parties will have policies on a wide range of issue. Moreover, parties assume direct responsibility for these policies by seeking to monopolise or share with other parties positions of political power.

Pressure groups, that is to say, express demands attitudes in the political system and party aggregate these demands, meaning thereby, that these demands and attitudes are put into a wider and coherent programme and presented to the electorate.

Thus political parties may be seen as preventing selfish group interest from nominating and distorting the decision-making process.\(^\text{12}\)
One peculiar development in modern political system not excluding the communist is the interpenetration of political parties and pressure groups. In communist societies trade-unions and others cultural organization work in union with their single party systems. On the contrary, when pressure groups control parties, their capacity to commit specific interests into programmes having wider appeal is more or less prohibited. As the existence and operation of pressure groups have become legitimate or a part of the democratic society, it is necessary in the interests of the survival of democracy to prevent their establishing a "neo-feudalism" based on their interests and in this task parties have a predominant role-to-play.

Prof. Rajni Kothari has made a generous contribution to the comparative state politics and Indian socio-political ethos. But nothing has been explored so far about the role of pressure groups which by and large have become the backbone of the Indian political system.

In India, pressure groups do exist but it is a state of affairs that no theory as such has so far been evolved, nor have they been accepted in principle.

Since independence the extension of political rights, including the freedom of association and universal adult suffrage and the expansion of welfare activities by the government have brought into being a multiplicity of pressure groups in India.
Organised interests operating in India are of two types, "community" and "vocational", community association representing caste, tribal, religious and linguistic interests, are an important type of organized interests in India.

However, caste associations, one of the earliest organized interests in the country, are prevalent in almost all parts of India. One of the early objectives of caste associations was to upgrade the position of their respective caste in the social hierarchy.

As Prof. M.N. Srinivas says, "Caste is so tacitly and so completely accepted by all, including those who are most vocal in condemning it, that it is everywhere the unit of social action."

Pressure groups based on religion are an important type of organized interest in India. These religious associations are the outcome of determined efforts on the part of religious communities, both the majority as well as minority for reform or revival of their religious faith and practices. Apart from their efforts for the promotion of their religious objectives these associations help their members to secure social mobility, political power and economic gains. Akali Dal, Vishav Hindu Parishad, Bajrang Dal, Muslim League, Shiv Sena are the glaring examples of religion based political parties acting as religious pressure groups.

Like religious associations, linguistic groups are an essential element of the social and cultural life of India. Linguistic associations
represent and try to secure the interests of the wide variety of people in all parts of the country.\textsuperscript{16}

Although vocational groups in India are not yet as well organized as their counter-parts in the West, agricultural and industrial labour, businessmen and industrialists, students, teachers, doctors and other professionals and government employees have relatively better organizations to act as pressure groups.\textsuperscript{17}

From the beginning Indian trade unions have taken the form of labour-front of political parties, and the Labour Federations; at present, which control the trade union movement in India are: The All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) working under the agencies of the Communist Party of India (CPI), the Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC), the labour Front of the INC, the Hind Mazdoor Sabha (HMS), the United Trade Union Congress (UTUC) formed by the non communist Marxist parties; the center for Indian Trade Unions (CITU) of the Communist Party of India [CPI(M)]. The Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) of the Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) and the Dravidian Labour Federation (DLF), the Labour Wing of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhakam (DMK).

The Indian Trade Unions, unlike their western counterparts are poorly organized, ill-equipped, maladministered and poorly financed, and concentrate more on strikes, demonstrations and election work than on
welfare activities. In these circumstances, the emergence of an independent trade union movement is problematical in India.

Business associations, a legacy of the 'Free' economy, are considered to be the best organized and the most resourceful of All Indian pressure groups. Since independence, business associations maintain contact with government and work for their solidarity. They also endeavour to raise business standards, settle disputes among themselves, promote industrial relations, at times, regulate output, and present to the nation a point of view common to business and industry.

It is a characteristic feature of the developing countries that students play an active role in social and political development. In some nation as in India, they have played a significant role in the struggle for national liberation.

In India student community is represented by a number of organizations. Four National Federations of students, the All India Students Federation (AISF), the Students Federation of India (SFI), the Akhil Bhartiuya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), and National Students Union of India (NSUI), are controlled respectively by the CPI, CPIM, BJP and INC.

Despite rapid urbanization India's 75% population live in villages. Aggregarian relation in India, despite land-reforms and other legal measures still present a scenario of former Zamindar and ex-landlords which exploit middle peasants, small peasants, and landless labourer.
The peasantry in India is not only divided within each area in a hierarchy of rich and poor but also divided across the length and breadth of the country, by region and sub-region, each with its own specific pattern of agriculture and distribution of land system. Naturally a peasantry of this size, with its internal divisions and regional variation can not be organized on an all India bases.

In pre-independent India an attempt was made by Congress and communist to form Kissan Sabhas. Under Jawahar Lal Nehru’s presidency of the Congress in 1936 (Lucknow Session) and on the initiative of Sardar-Patel, the All India Kissan Sabha was established. But soon enough, due to conflict of interest between big and rich farmers, middle and small peasants a split occured.

After independence several peasant organizations came up at all India level. In Tamil Nadu, different segments of peasantry organized themselves and named Tamil Nadu state Farmer Association, and the middle peasantry setup Tamil Nadu agricultural Association, in 1966. The socialist establish “Hind Kissan Panchayat, the Communist (Marxist) set United Kissan Sabha”. A big boost was given to peasant cause by CPI (M) organized revolutionary Peasants conventions in 1967. In 1973 farmers Federation was set up in Kerala. In the wake of green revolution in Punjab the Zimindara Union at Nabha, all India Kissan Zimindara Front at Mandi Govindgarh and Khetibari union were established at Ludhiana in the late sixties and early seventies. In 1978
Janta Party, mainly through the efforts of Charan Singh and Raj Narayan formed “All India Kissan Kamgar Sammelan.”

An ex-administrator Mr. B.K. Joshi from Maharashtra and a rich peasant farmer Mohinder Singh Tiketh of U.P. tried to organize the peasants of All India in the late eighties and early nineties. With the commercialization of apple crop, the apple growers also formed Apple Growers Association in 1983 in Himachal Pradesh.

The word Himachal is derived from two Sanskrit words, “Hima and Achala”. Himachal Pradesh literally meaning “The Land of Snow”. It is situated in the lap of Himalayan ranges in the extreme North-West of India, and bordered by Jammu and Kashmir in the North, Punjab in the West and South-West, Haryana in the South-West and Tibet in the East. Himachal Pradesh is by and large a mountainous state, covering an area of 55.67 lakh hectares according to Surveyor General of India. In the state nearly 1/10 of the total geographical area is under cultivation and of this nearly 1/6 is under horticultural crops. This Pradesh came into being as part ‘C’ state of the Indian Union on 15th of April, 1948 as a result of the merger of Punjab and Shimla Hill States into the Indian Union. At that time this state had four districts and its area was 27,168 sq.kms. In 1954, the neighbouring state of Bilaspur was integrated with Himachal Pradesh, thereby adding one more district. As a result of this addition, the total area of the State increased to 28,237 sq.kms.
In 1960, a new border district of Kinnaur was carved out of Mahasu district. With the reorganization of Punjab State in 1966, the area of this Pradesh increased by nearly 100 per cent. On 25th of January, 1971, it became the eighteenth state of the Union of India. Subsequently the reorganization of districts gave Himachal Pradesh the administrative shape as it exists today. For administrative purposes Himachal Pradesh is divided into three divisions. These divisions are further divided into twelve districts viz., Bilaspur, Chamba, Hamirpur, Kangra, Kinnaur, Lahaul & Spiti, Shimla, Sirmour, Mandi, Kullu, Solan and Una.

The caste system regulated the social structure of the people in the areas. Each caste has its own rules, standards and norms. In Himachal Pradesh there are four major religions in the state as per census 1991. Of these, the most prominent is Hindu which accounts for 49,58,560 person (95.9 per cent of population of the Pradesh) followed by Muslims 89,134 (1.7 per cent), Buddhists, 64,081 (1.2 per cent), are concentrated in the district of Lahaul and Spiti, Kinnaur and Kullu. The Sikhs live in Kangra, Shimla, Mandi and Sirmour Districts. There is a very small Christian population of only (0.1 per cent), Jains 0.02 per cent.

Language- Besides Hindi, Urdu, English and Punjabi the people of the region have various dialects of their own, some of which are only intelligible to their own group, area or tribe.
In terms of literacy, this Pradesh has witnessed good progress over time. Its literacy rate is 90 per cent (94 for men and 86 for women).\textsuperscript{21}

There are two crop seasons in Himachal Pradesh, viz., Ravi and Kharif. The duration of Ravi Crops from sowing to harvesting is from October to May while that of Kharif is between June and September. The important crops are maize and paddy and these are grown throughout the state except in those parts of Lahaul & Spiti and Kinnaur which do not experience monsoon.

Pulses grown during this season are urd, hulth, etc. Wheat and barley are major rabi crops and the pulses, gram, peas, masoor, beans etc. potato is one of the major kharif cash crops.\textsuperscript{22}

The important cereals grown in this state including rice, maize, ragi and small millets during kharif season and wheat, barley during Rabi season. From area point of view, wheat comes on top among all the crops grown in the Pradesh. It is grown in the lower hills as well as at higher altitudes. The percentage area under wheat has shown an upward trend, i.e. from 32.2 per cent in 1966-67 to 38 per cent during 1988-89. Maize is an important crop of the Kharif season and ranks second in the percentage of total cropped area. The area under maize rose from 28.2 per cent in 1966-67 to 29.1 per cent in 1977-78 and further to 32.1 per cent in 1988-89. Paddy the staple food of people ranked third in order of the area in 1966-67, this proportion declined to 10.9 per cent in 1977-78 and further 9.6 per cent in 1988-89.\textsuperscript{23}
In the Rabi season, barley is the second important crop in this state. Only 4.8 per cent of the total cropped area came under this crop during 1966-67 which further declined to 4 per cent in 1977-78 and to only 3 per cent during 1988-89.

Total pulses accounted for only 7.3 per cent of the total cropped area during 1966-67 which increased to 8.7 per cent during 1977-78 but sharply declined to 4.5 per cent in 1988-89.

The total production of food crops increased from 7,70,139 metric tones in 1966-67 to 125,56,53 metric tones during 1988-89, thus registering an increase at 63.64 per cent during the period of twenty three years. Total cereals continued to maintain their pre-dominent position throughout the period in terms of the proportionate contribution to total crops. The peculiar topography and agro-climatic conditions of the state limit the scope for field crops but are most suitable for the production of fruits and off-season vegetables.

In the state, nearly one tenth of the total geographical area is under cultivation and of this nearly one-sixth is under horticultural crops. Thus, the best alternative for the state is to utilize its natural resources for higher pay-off crops. Horticulture in the state has now become business proposition and fruits and vegetables are grown on commercial purposes.

The climate, rainfall and temperature in different parts of Himachal Pradesh display great variations, thus resulting in
heterogeneous cropping pattern, timing of sowing, harvesting and marketing.

Himachal Pradesh has a deeply dissected topography with complex geographical structure. Physiologically the state can be divided into three zones of outer Himalayan, inner and Alpine zone. Apple Production in Himachal Pradesh is mainly conferred to areas lying between 5000 to 7000 ft. above MSL. At lower altitudes inadequate winter chilling may be a problem for apple production. An annual rainfall of about 1000 mm (40 inches) is ideal for most deciduous fruits, although its distribution is also of great importance.

Himachal Pradesh is well suited for gaining fresh as well as dry fruits. Quite large chunk of area of the state is suited for growing temperate and dry fruits like apple, peach, pears, plum, almond etc. Among fruits apple occupies the first place and it is grown mainly in the region above 2000 metres, however, in the lower hills fruits like mango and citrus, kinnu and orange are also grown.

The apple accounts for 38 per cent and citrus fruits 22 per cent of the total area under fruits. The Nuts and Dry fruits account for merely 8 per cent of the total area under fruits. The production of other temperate fruits was 3.86 per cent, citrus fruit 3.26 per cent, other subtropical fruits 3.52 per cent and nuts and dry fruits 0.8 per cent of the total fruit production.
The total area under apple in 1960-61 was only 3,025 hectares which increased to 66,767 hectares in 1991. In 1994-95 the total area of apple was 75,469 hectares. In 1960-61 the total production of the apple was 12,000 tonnes which increased to 301730 tonnes in 1991-92. In 1995-96 the production of apple was 276586 tonnes.\(^{26}\)

In 1993-94, district wise apple production was, in Shimla 172851, Kullu 84758, Kinnaur 23190, Mandi 8192, Chamba 4982, Sirmour 288, Kangra 301, Lahaul-Spiti 1119 and Solan 53 tonnes. The total production was 294734 tonnes.\(^{27}\)

The agro-climatic conditions required for apple cultivation are suited in these districts. Therefore, maximum area was put under apple in these districts.

The production of apple is much dependent upon weather conditions, elevation, age of the plant, etc. Further, apple being an alternative bearing crop, there can be large fluctuations in the production of apples. It may be concluded that, in area and production both, Shimla district ranks first.

The total state income in 1993-94 at current price amounted to 6519 crore, out of which the share of apple income was 29706.24 lakh in the same year.\(^{28}\) In 2000-2001 apple industry business amounted to Rs.8000 crore.

The importance of roads in the economic development of hilly areas cannot be over emphasized. Almost entire produce is marketed
outside the state. Inputs like fertilizers, consumer goods are imported from outside the state. Further more, in hills almost the entire carriage is by the roads only. Himachal Pradesh has made good progress in road development.

Irrigation is an important prerequisite for the development of agriculture through modern technology. This is evident from the fact that in our country only those regions could succeed in modernizing agriculture where the maximum cropped area was under irrigation. However, due to difficult geographical conditions a large part of area under crops remain devoid of irrigations facilities in Himachal Pradesh.

Livelihood occupies a pivotal position in the rural economy of this Pradesh. It not only continues to be the main source of draught power in agricultural operations and rural transportation, but also provide manure and essential food items like milk and meat. Large quantities of several other animal products e.g. hides, and skin, bones, wool etc. are also obtained from the livestock.

In the high hill zone the income derived from orchards was as high as 81 per cent. In mid hill zone it accounted for 77 per cent following by Alpine Zone (64 per cent).

Marketing has however, remained a neglected aspect of agriculture development in Himachal till the end of the third Five Year Plan. It is only during the Fourth Five Year Plan that concrete steps were taken for the creation of a more streamlined marketing structure in the state by
setting up the Agro-industries corporations and its subsidiary agency, namely, the horticultural produce marketing and processing company. The Fourth Plan aimed at regulating twelve markets in the state, though actually only five markets comprising Kandrori, Nalagarh, Paonta, Shimla and Solan were regulated. Another three markets namely, Kangra, Moranda and Nadaun were regulated subsequently.

Agricultural credit in Himachal Pradesh is mainly provided by institution such as cooperatives and commercial bank etc. For enabling farmers to meet operational expenses, and expense on capital formation activities and facilities of introduction of new agricultural strategies under cooperative sector, primary agriculture credit and non-credit societies, central and state land development Banks are playing a vital role in rural financing. These commercial banks advance both direct as well as indirect finance to the agriculture.31

Non institutional agencies like money lenders, relatives, traders and commission agents also give credit for meeting the needs of the farmers.

On 15th April 1948, the Himachal Pradesh provincial Congress Committee started functioning. The AICC was requested to treat Praja Mandals as Congress Committee and to take over Praja Mandal workers as Congress members on signing the Congress pledge. The HPCC on 6th June 1948 held its first meeting. Dr.Y.S.Parmar was elected President and was empowered to nominate other office bearers. The Congress
Party in Himachal Pradesh thus, has been founded on the infrastructure supplied by the Praja Mandals, and, therefore, it began its career with certain initial difficulties.

The development of the communist party in Himachal Pradesh can be traced to a political conference organized by the Kisan Sabha at Bhangrotu (Mandi) in April 1951. Its objective was to ventilate the grievances of the tenants. The Himachal Pradesh Communist Party was formed in January 1953. Swatantra Party was formed on June 4 1959. There were another parties e.g. Praja Socialist Party, Scheduled Castes Federation (SCF), Vishal Himachal Pradesh, Lok Raj Samiti (Party).

Himachal Pradesh has been the stronghold of the Congress party right from the inception of the Pradesh. The party won the majority of seats in Parliament from 1951 to 1996 except 1977 and also maintained majority in the Legislative Assembly except in 1977 to 1979 and 1990 to 1992.

As regards the pressure groups, students unions, teachers' union, NGO's Federation, Bhartiya Majdoor Sabha, State Electricity Employees Association, Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association, Apple Growers Association are numerous groups working in the political system of Himachal Pradesh.

Dr.Y.S.Parmar, a founder father of Himachal Pradesh, was a great visionary and he was convinced that as the topography of the state was not suitable for agriculture, so only horticulture would lead the state to
economic prosperity. He visualizes that apple holds a great potential and gave a slogan that H.P. will be converted into an apple state of India. So, the raising of apple orchards were encouraged by the government and subsidies in the forms of fertilizers, insecticides, soft loans and even for the purchase of apple plants were thrown open to apple growers. In the process, a separate Horticultural University, first in Asia was established at Solan.\textsuperscript{32}

By the time, that is in mid-seventies a strong infrastructure for the transportation and Marketing of apples has come up with the help of world bank. Apples growing belts were linked by roads and roads construction involved large amount of money and time the transportation of apples were considered by a new work of ropeways.\textsuperscript{33}

In 1975 Dr.Y.S.Parmar had left the political scene of the state and he was succeeded by Thakur Ram Lal, again of Congress Party as the Chief Minister of the State. Thakur Ram Lal represented the Jubbal-Kotkhai constituency, the heart land of apple growing areas, and a nerve center of politics of apple growers in the State.

But in 1977, the Congress Party lost the general elections under the influence of Jay Prakash Narayan wave and Janata Party came into power in the center as well as the State.

The increase in production created many problems for the apple growers. The cost of production had gone up. At the same time, a deadly fungal disease known as "Apple Scab" damaged the crop completely and
the apple growers were even unable to make their both ends to meet. The Congress Party headed by Thakur Ram Lal announced 50 paise a kilogram for scabbed apple, as a relief to the apple growers. The increase in production created many problems to the apple growers. The main problems were marketing, transportation, inadequate points of supplies for the distribution of the material inputs, weak or virtually non-existent cooperative organization, non-acquisition of scientific technique for the maintenance of the orchards, which brought interaction between the apple growers and government. Transportation of marketing surpluses was the main problem for the apple growers as the infrastructure of roads were insufficient and poorly managed because of difficult terrain. By this time apple growers association, though loosely organized have came up as a strong pressure group in the politics of Himachal Pradesh. The association was mainly dominated by the members who directly or indirectly associated with the Congress Party, though of lately CPI (M) and the BJP had also made their presence felt in the association.

In the meantime, Shri Shanta Kumar, the Chief Minister announced that the government was not able to pay the support price to the already affluent apple growers, due to the financial stringencies prevailing in the State. The sudden change in the attitude of the BJP government came as a bolt from the blue to the apple growers. The withdrawals of all benefits to the apple growers shaped the events for the coming big agitation in July 1989.
In this agitation, the regional feelings raise very high and again the monster of regional raised its ugly head. As in the apple growing belt, the business is controlled by the traders from the merged areas.

The importance of the study of this group has been felt as it occupies a peculiar place in the economy and politics of Himachal Pradesh. As this group occupies considerable weight in the development programme of the state, it is imperative to study the various methods and processes by which it influences the public policy in the state and also the various processes through which the scattered demands of the unorganized group are channelized.

**Significance of the Study:**

The pressure groups perform a useful function of social integration both vertical and horizontal. They are also seen as a form of linkage and a means of communication between the masses and elite. The politics of pressure groups are legitimate and stable democratic process. As opposed to this, the dominant Indian views, pressure groups to be disruptive of order and consensus. Their activity is considered to be responsible and a rational and against the national interests. In the absences of sufficient scientific evidence, both pressure group activity, we may not be justifiably, able to agree with either of the above stated views. Hence the need for a close group for pressure group phenomena. The present study tries to make an effort in this direction. The venture
assumes the greater significance because it is about an autonomous and voluntary horticulturist group, which is loosely organized.

The other considerations which influence the choice of the subject are:-

(i) Absence of relevant study on the politics of pressure groups in Himachal Pradesh, in general and Apple Growers Association in particular.

(ii) The apple growers are facing acute crisis in terms of marketing, transportation, infrastructure, inputs, pesticides, insecticides etc.

(iii) The apple is the major commercial crop of Himachal Pradesh and it is grown in the 22 constituencies out of sixty eight (68) constituencies and assumed a political significance. The 89% of total fruit production and state incur annual income more than 8000 crore, out of which, the share of apple income is 40,706,24 lakhs.

Methodology

Scientific study of the politics involves the appropriate methods and tools to collect data with a view to evolve generalizations, principles and theories which not only should explain the phenomena under study but should also be capable of predicting behavior under similar conditions.
So far as methodological aspect concerned an endeavour has been made to effect a suitable fusion of the "historical" institutional, and empirical approaches. In executing the present research work, data has been obtained both from primary and secondary sources. The data has been collected by circulating multichoice questionnaires to respondents. A large number of books, magazines, journals, reports, newspapers and other periodicals have been consulted. The respondents are chosen through purposive-cum-random sampling.

The choice of tools and techniques to be employed, depends upon the nature of the problem to be analysed. Ours is a study of "Politics of Pressure Group: A Study of Apple Growers Association in Himachal Pradesh". The study has been made around following questions:

(i) Under what circumstances Apple Growers Association originate and which section of the society organize them? What are their objectives and what is the governmental response?

(ii) What type of people join Apple Growers Association and become active in such groups and why? Putting in different words, what socio-economic background of members of apple growers association?

(iii) What pressure methods do they employ and with what effect?

(iv) What determines target response to the ventured influence of such an organization? What is the political cognitive
orientation of the members of AGA. And what is the extent of its success or failure?

(v) What is Apple Growers Association present role and what is it going to be likely in future, in the working of the politics of Himachal Pradesh.

While endeavouring to find anser to these questions, we will also test some of the hypothesis and generalization, observations about the pressure group phenomena.

CHAPTERIZATION

(i) Introduction: In this chapter, the problem has been present with its justification and significance and the literature on pressure groups in general and Apple Growers Association in particular. The tools of data collection and analysis have also been explained. The general introduction about history, polity, economy, culture of Himachal Pradesh has been described. Putting in different words, we have described the context under which Apple Grower Association has to operate.

(ii) Review of Literature: have been obtained both from primary and secondary sources. A large number of books, magazines, journals, reports, newspapers and other periodicals have been consulted. The theories about the origin of organized groups have been analysed. After analyzing available literature,
tentative hypothesis have been forwarded so that the course of our further study could be charted properly.

(iii) The third chapter deals with origin, organization, demands and techniques of Apple Growers Association And Governmental Response. This chapter has been formulated through historical approach, the descriptive and analytical methods are used. The formal as well as actual working of organization has been described. The association pressure techniques and governmental response, strategies have been analysed.

(iv) Socio-Economic background: In this chapter, a profile of Apple Growers Associations members and leaders has been presented in term of their socio-economic status through filed study. So that we will be able to find the sort of people joining Apple Growers Association and become active in such groups. We will able to know the socio-economic status of the members of Apple Grower Association.

(v) The chapter five deals with political awareness of Apple Grower Association. In this chapter, the political cognition of Apple Growers Association members, their role and political status will be ascertained by collected data. Apart from this, the performance and evaluation of Apple Growers Association will be analysed through the perception of respondents.
(vi) Last but not the least, we will be able to give summary and conclusions of our study.

The 222 samples were chosen from the major apple growing districts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.No.</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Bilaspur</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Chamba</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Hamirpur</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Kangra</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Kinnaur</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>10.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Kullu</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>34.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Lahaul &amp; Spiti</td>
<td>07</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Mandi</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>9.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Shimla</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>39.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Sirmour</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Solan</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Una</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Out of 222 samples 88 (39.63%) samples were selected from Shimla district, because bulk of area i.e. (40.10%) is under apple cultivation, (71.05%) of total production is from this district. The second major district of apple growing is Kullu. The area under growing cultivation is (22.83%) and total production of this district amount to (20.71%). Therefore 77(34.68%) samples were selected from this district. The third major district of apple growing is Kinnaur. The area under growing
cultivation is (6.85%) and total production of this district amount to (2.68%). Therefore 24 (10.81%) samples were selected from this district. The fourth major district of apple growing is Mandi. The area under growing cultivation is (16.14%) and total production of this district amount to (4.49%). Therefore 22 (9.90%) samples were selected from this district.

The notes of caste configuration, education, literacy, as land holding of these samples and their nuances have been taken into a consideration.
References


17. Ibid., p.38.


19. Ibid., p.5.


27. Ibid., p.16.

28. Ibid., p.


