PREFACE

ADMINISTRATIVE STUDY OF THIRD AND FOURTH GENERAL ELECTIONS IN UTTAR PRADESH.

The present thesis is a systematic presentation of the electoral processes in all their bearings and implications in Uttar Pradesh after the advent of Indian Independence.

By the very nature of the thesis, it is a novel endeavour breaking new grounds or initiating something profoundly original and germinal. Its novelty consists in the fact that in this thesis the system of election in our State has been methodically presented against the background of past history and present politics.

The preparation of this thesis has occupied almost the whole of my time and energy for the last four years, but it was planned, and some of the work for it was done, some years earlier. No pains have been spared in the endeavour to make it thoroughly reliable; I shall like to think that it will also be found both illuminating and stimulating.
A survey of the electoral processes and machinery in the Third and Fourth general elections has been made with special reference to Uttar Pradesh. It has been a very laborious and often a tedious task to collect facts, Marshall them properly and enunciate principles or suggest modifications and changes. Practically all the statistical information it contains has been adopted from authentic sources and a few tables have been specially prepared out of these sources. It is hoped that much of this will prove useful for reference. Wherever possible comparison has been made with the electoral systems working in certain countries of the west.

This thesis is being submitted at a time when the country has passed through a great crisis of leadership and stable government, both in our State and at the Centre. The evils of big money, defections and multiplicity of parties have been playing their role in the instability of the governments. Hence the country had to go to polls much earlier than scheduled. But these elections have proved that the Indian voter has reached maturity and can no longer be taken for granted by any political party, however, well-established
and well-entrenched it may be. The electorate of 218 millions in 1962 has now reached nearly 275 millions, but the electoral machinery handling the process of elections in different phases has been efficiently functioning. It is a tribute to the Election Commission. India is rightly mentioned as the biggest democracy in the world.

It will be obvious how experience has been a great factor of change in our electoral system. The experiences undergone in the last four general elections and bye-elections forced our constitution builders and the Election Commission to introduce changes designed to make for a more just system of election and to enable popular will to be expressed more thoroughly through the system of representation by means of election. Adult franchise in a country of mass illiteracy is a very great risk but a calculated risk and our Election Commission and officers concerned have risen to the occasion to enable our Legislatures to be representative in the truest sense of the people of India.

This story of what election machinery we had, how it has evolved and undergone modifications, has
been unfolded in this thesis and it is hoped some justice has been done to the subject. We have broken new ground and sometimes we have stumbled but the endeavour has brought out the salient features of the electoral machinery for the legislature of Uttar Pradesh. Suggestions have been made for further improvements and it is hoped that this thesis will be helpful to research students in the theory and art of government.

This work has been suggested to me by Dr. G.P. Srivastava, Lecturer, Department of Political Science, D.A.V. College, Kanpur. I owe a great debt of gratitude to him for his valuable advice and constant guidance and I express my cordial thanks to him. My thanks are also due to Principal R.S. Mathur and Dr. Vishnu Narain Srivastava, Head of the Department of Political Science, D.A.V. College, for allowing the free use of the college library. In the end, I thank my husband Dr. R.P. Saksena, Associate Professor of Botany, D.A.V. College, Kanpur in encouraging me and helping me in the preparation of this thesis.

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