CHAPTER – I

INTRODUCTION

India is a large vibrant democratic nation in the world. Constitution of India has authorized the people to form their own associations, unions to protect their interests, to fight against injustice which is cause for the threat of their rights. Thus, associations, unions emerged in the form of pressure groups.

Pressure groups have very significant role to play in any political system. They constitute the relation between people and government. As a single institution government cannot perform its functions properly without the help of such organizations like pressure groups because they serve as channel of communication between people and government.¹

Pressure groups in India in comparison with America not organized in a systematic manner. In India pressure groups failed to exert their influence or pressure because they are working under the influence of political parties.

Pressure groups in India formed based on language, religion, region caste, etc., besides these pressure groups, agrarian occupation, youth interest based pressure groups also exist in Indian political system.

Pressure groups are association of interest groups as well as influence groups which are formed to promote the interest of their members by exercising all sorts of direct and indirect pressure on government. They are different from political parties. A political party has a broad national base. It represents wider national or sectional interests. It has a wide organizational network. It contests
election and tries to capture political power. It also tries to influence and
mobilize public opinion by means of the media and mass communication. On
the other hand, a pressure group is concerned with limited particular interests.
It does not fight election nor aims to capture political power and control the
government directly. A pressure group consists of those people who without
gaining control of the government try to influence the behaviour of the
Ministers, Members of Parliament or State Assembly and Government Officers
through various means in order to achieve their specific ends.\(^2\)

Though the scholars do not agree regarding the exact role of the
pressure groups in the working of the democratic institutions, yet it is admitted
on all hands that they are absolutely essential for the smooth working of
democracy. Today pressure groups are regarded not only as a necessary evil
but a healthy factor in political dynamics. Usually, the following arguments are
pointed out to bring out the utility of the pressure groups.\(^3\)

The various pressure groups try to secure the interests of various
sections of society and thus contribute towards their happiness. This happiness
of the various sections naturally leads to national happiness. In the absence of the
pressure groups it would not be possible to make various sections of society happy.

Pressure groups are essential in a democratic set up as they balance
the national interest and particular interests. They constitute links of
communication between the citizen and the government. Rodee observes, “The
elected official in turn can evaluate the desires of his constituents more
effectively through the unofficial channel of interest group activity”.

Further, these groups keep democracy alive during the interval between the elections and constitute a barrier against interregnums. They supplement the party system and the formal instruments of government by serving as spokesmen of special interests within society.

The pressure groups are also helpful in making available to the government the necessary statistics, data, etc., which are helpful to the government in determining the policy. The modern problems are so complicated that in the absence of the necessary data and statistics, no proper policy decision can be taken. The pressure groups while making out a case for their respective interests make this data available to the government and thus render a great national service.

The theory of the welfare state and the method of planned development are the new phenomena which have led to growth of government power. Socialism and positivism have increased them considerably and today we need ‘groups’ as a shield against the sword wielded by the government. Pressure groups are such shield.

Unlike other western countries it is not easy for the pressure groups in India to influence individual members of the parliament because of the strong and tightly party discipline. Of late, however, numerous pressure groups have appeared and lobbies are fast emerging in New Delhi and other state capitals. The members of these groups or lobbies with the vast t their command try to develop contacts with ministers and other important officials who decide the
policy matters, and try to influence those politics with a view to promoting their own interests.\textsuperscript{7}

Pressure groups make use of different techniques and methods to achieve their objectives. Some of the most common techniques are as follows:

Lobbying is a favourite technique of pressure groups operating in every political system. This is a political technique which means influencing the government. In other words, interested persons making representations to the legislature or other departments of government in order to influence public policy in favour of themselves may be called lobbying. In fact, the lobbying is the key intermediary between pressure groups and the government. The lobbyist actually performs at least three functions vitally important to legislators and executives. He communicates information. He defends the interest of his employers and he defines the political implications of legislative matters.\textsuperscript{8}

Pressure groups eneavour to secure the nomination and election of sympathetic legislators, who may later be used in the enactment of favourable laws. In modern democracies, in fact legislators often find themselves virtually in the pockets of pressure groups. How and why this happens is rather very simple. The legislators, above all, want to maximize the possibilities of their elections; and the election campaign needs money. So, the member is always on the look out for money, which is available with private associations; thus he goes to the associations. In return, he has to support the demands of the associations.

Pressure groups influence policy-makers by supplying them accurate
data and information. Most of the modern pressure groups now maintain a research cell and come out with effective measures and cures. Thus policies are framed with the help of the information supplied by pressure groups.

Sometimes drafts of bills are framed by pressure groups themselves and submitted to legislatures. They possess skill and expert knowledge in the domain of their own field and have links with Civil Servants. They are conversant with the administrative process and they know how the work can be done.

Pressure groups create a favourable climate for their particular cause by appealing to public opinion through speeches, books, pamphlets, special articles, news releases, radios and motion pictures.

Pressure groups propagate their view points through the press. They usually try to get the newspapers and even publish their own newspapers. Their method is that their own views are given wide publicity and contrary views are not expressed in a way that they dislike.

Pressure groups align themselves with one or the other political party and act as a powerful clique in the party. If the party is the ruling party, their objectives are achieved without much difficulty.

The mass media constitutes one of the effective channels of access used by pressure groups. In an open society the use of the mass media to convey political demands is a major means of appealing to political decision makers.
One obvious means of articulating demands is through physical demonstrations and violence. These methods are employed by anomie pressure groups. The use of riots, assassinations and demonstrations by other pressure groups is not an uncommon phenomenon.  

Elite representation on behalf of an interest group constitutes a channel of access which can be utilized with great effect by some pressure groups. It may take the form of the presence of a group member in the rule making structure. The agents of interest groups are usually given ample representation on legislative committees in various countries. 

Finally, sometimes pressure groups thrive on bribery and corruption. They utilize effectively the entire paraphernalia which democracy and science have given to modern age. It is also alleged that pressure groups are using wine and women vehemently. Thus, there is a degree of outright corruption or back-stage intrigue. 

Odegard very rightly commented on the techniques of the pressure groups. 

An interest group resort to use three different techniques in trying to secure its purpose. First, it can try to place in public office persons who are favourably disposed toward the interests it seeks to promote. This technique may be labeled electioneering. Second, it can try to persuade public officers, whether they are initially favourably disposed toward it or not, to adopt and enforce the policies that it thinks will prove most beneficial to its interests. This technique may be labeled lobbying. Third, it can try to influence public opinion
and thereby gain an indirect influence over government, since government in a democracy is substantially affected by public opinion. This technique may be labeled propagandizing.\textsuperscript{10}

The techniques and functions of pressure groups vary from country to country and system to system. It must be stated that the actual influence of pressure groups in a political system will depend upon the range of activities entrusted to the government. If a government keeps off the economic arena, pressure groups will have little to do, inspite of their skillful techniques. But if the range of activities is wide and the state is a welfare state, committed to socialism and planning, pressure groups will be very activity.

In short, it can be said that in modern times the role of the pressure groups is gaining in importance and they have come to be considered as the legislature behind the legislature. The pressure groups try to promote the interests of their members from both with in the party as well as from outside the party.

\textbf{STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:}

The pattern of educational changes in India in the 19\textsuperscript{th} century seems to have been more effective in setting the pace and direction of the political and associational changes than what one would normally expect from economic and technological change. When the British government instituted a system of Western education, it prepared a crucial base for the rise of a new Indian elite. The social leadership of this elite came from the educated middle class. Out of this leadership there arose a politically conscious class of people who, in
association with other educated people, attempted to build a form of organization that would enable them to promote their own interests as well as the interests of their own people. They sought to increase their appeal by organizational efforts through the establishment of various secondary associations with specific programmers.

In the beginning most of the organizational efforts began on a very limited scale. They were limited to small groups of likeminded reformers, educators and students. Most of their associations did not openly discuss political issues. However, gradually political issues were increasingly included in their legitimate order of business.

The Atmiya Society (1815), the Brahmo Sabha (1830), the Dharma Sabha (1830), the Young Bengal group (1831), etc., were some of the earliest efforts in the above direction. Gradually similar societies with a broader social base were established in India, notably in Poona, Bombay, Punjab and other areas. The Satya Shodhak Samaj (1873) of Poona, the Prarthna Samaj (1867) of Bombay and the Arya Samaj (1875) were some of the leading land marks in associational development drawing a wider base of social support than before. The Indian National Congress (1885) and the Muslim League (1906) also started in the guise of pressure groups. As Almond and Coleman observe: “The earliest modern political groups is South Asia can be characterized more as interest groups than as political parties. The Indian National Congress, the Muslim League and the Ceylon National Congress began as small narrowly based interest groups primarily concerned with the interests of a westernized middle class.”¹⁸ Their aim may justly be described as “an attempt to influence
the government within the existing constitution”. The Indian National Congress was converted into a nationalist movement had profound effects on the kind of pressure group system which emerged in free India. In its efforts to build a mass movement, the nationalist leadership organized peasant associations, trade union, student organizations, constructive work groups and the like. Thus in the pre-Independence era, the Indian National Congress was an organization which represented the aggregate interests within the movement.

Pressure groups are very much in existence in India, although it must be admitted that they are not large in number, and are different from those in the Western countries. Pressure groups in India are constitute mainly along occupational and economic interests, such as trade unions, peasant groups, teacher student groups, women’s associations, the business community, caste and religious associations, etc. Like many other Asian and African states, India has a good number of community pressure groups. The trade unions are divided on political party lines. The INTUC, organized under the banner of the Congress Party in 1947, has been representing the labour front. The CPI dominates the AITUC, while the CPI(M) controls the CITU (Centre for Indian Trade Unions). Interestingly, political leaders get their apprenticeship in public life by working as organizers in the trade union field. Peasant and student groups are also divided along party lines. The farmers forum and the Bharat Sevak Samaj reflect the congress party views on rural problems. The Kisan Sabha is the organization controlled by the communists. In the students, forums, the All India Students Federation AISF is controlled by the CPI, while
the Students Federation of India, SFI, is led by CPI(M) and the Chhatra Parishad by the Congress Party. Today, the Chhatra Janata has emerged as the student’s wing of the Janata Party. Even some women’s associations have express affiliations to political parties. To use the terminology of Joseph La Palombara, the pressure groups tend to work through political parties in a type of `parentela’ relationship.

The business community constitutes the most powerful pressure groups in India. Most of their associations are cautiously sympathetic to the Congress Party, for it had so powerful and commanding a majority till the other day that to oppose it for attaining certain objectives would surely be tactically wrong. There are numerous business associations, such as the Indian Jute Mills Association (IJMA) and the Indian Tea Association (ITA). More important associations are the Federation of Chambers of Commerce in India (FCCI), Bharat Chamber of Commerce, the Indian Chamber of Commerce. They publish various business journals, e.g., Capital Indian Finance, Eastern Economist, etc., to ventilate the views of Indian business to those who will read them.

An interesting feature of pressure groups in India is the `caste lobby’. These lobbies try to influence the interests of particular castes and demand support for members of the same caste in the legislatures. There is no denying the fact that there exists a bond of relationship between Indian legislators and leaders of religious sectors. Interests organized around traditional loyalties to caste, religion, community, and the like are important forces in India. Of these, regional linguistic ethnic groups have been the most important. In the Almond Powell typology, these represent the so called non associational interest
groups, and these groups prevail mostly in states like UP, Bihar, parts of South India and some parts of West Bengal.

Rajni Kothari, a notable analyst of Indian politics, is of the opinion that given the dominant role of government in political institutionalization and social and economic development, the most important interests are ‘crystallized in the form of institutional pressure groups’ – the political parties, the bureaucracy and the factional network. He also observes that in conformity with the larger coalitional pattern that charities India’s diffuse political system, the most interesting interest configurations are mixed rather than discrete. Myron Weiner believes that if institutional pressure groups such as the army and the civil service are placed at one end of the continuum of organized interest articulation, the anomie movement would seem to be at the other end. Pressure tactics and methods have become an integral part of the prevailing political process in the country. The technique of organized pressure, through mass campaigns, demonstrations, strikes, civil disobedience movements, gheraos and bandhs, has been frequently used by interest groups, not so well organized, for forcing the government to make some positive concessions to their demands. Myron Weiner has rightly commented that the very frequency with which mass action has succeeded in vetoing government action, or in positively modifying public policy, has strengthened the public belief that such measures are both desirable and effective. The prevailing political culture also does not so much favour the operation of organized pressure groups, or makes people cynical of them. But it is equally true and inescapable that in the plural Indian society and the federal political structure, there is no alternative but to
recognize the interest groups. The octopus dominance of the congress party in the Indian political process upto March 1977 and even after 1980 may have been so frustrating for groups that they turned frequently to violent protest. Violence and anomie activities, however, have become an instrument of interest articulation in the so called developed nations too. But all said and done, pressure groups in India must be given opportunities to affect policies and their implementation. They must become oriented toward problem solving and policy making. But lack of co-ordination among pressure groups working under influence of political parties made pressure groups inactive in Indian political system. In this work an attempt will be made to analyze and suggest the measures to strengthen the role of pressure groups in Indian political system.

**SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:**

The significance of this work lies in analysis of working of various pressure groups working in Indian political system. The importance of this work is that it focuses on the various techniques, approaches, adopted by pressure groups to achieve their ends. The significance of this work also lies in the comparison between American pressure groups and Indian pressure groups role. It tries to find out what kind of relation exists between political parties and pressure groups and contribution towards the national unity and integrity. And finally it also suggests measures to strengthen them.

**OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:**

The study entitled “The Role of Pressure Groups in Indian Political System: A Study” undertaken with the following objectives.
1. To examine the types of pressure groups which are operating at national and state level in Indian political system.

2. The purpose of this study is to systematically analyze techniques and approaches adopted by the pressure groups to achieve their ends.

3. To understand difference between interest groups and pressure groups.

4. Causes for the failure of pressure groups in achieving their ends.

5. To know relation between government and pressure groups.

6. To examine the relation between political parties and pressure groups.

7. To analyze the role of pressure groups in Indian political system.

8. To find out measures for the effective working of pressure groups.

**HYPOTHESIS:**

1. The systematic organization and working of pressure groups in Indian political system can play an effective role in order to achieve their ends.

2. By exerting pressure in organized manner over government, parliament or local authorities, they can achieve their ends.

3. Pressure groups are based on region, religion, caste, occupation, interest and labour. If they have co-ordination among themselves it can help to achieve their ends in speed manner without any delay.

**METHODOLOGY:**

The present study is based on historical, descriptive and analytical methods. To gain the background of the pressure groups the secondary sources such as the books, manuscripts, research papers, research reports etc., used. The data analyzed and interpreted to derive findings and based on the findings of study suggestions are given.
SOURCES OF DATA:

For the comprehensive study and research about the role of pressure groups in Indian political system. Both primary and secondary data used. The primary data consist of “Statements” of leaders of various pressure groups. Secondary data used in the form of published material i.e., books, journals, etc.,

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

There have been numerous works done by different scholar at different time on government and politics of India, and Indian political system. There are few books particularly on pressure groups which provide limited knowledge.

W.J.M. Mackenzie’s book on “Pressure groups which explains the conceptual frame work of political studies with reference to pressure groups. Earl Latham’s work “Interest groups in America Political System”, this book explain the working of pressure groups in American political system. “Politics and Pressure groups” written by V.O. Key describes the role of pressure groups in a political process. The work of Geoffery K. Roberts, entitled “Political parties and pressure groups in Britain provide picture about the relation between political parties and pressure groups. “Politics in India” this book written by Ranjni Kothari which analyses the language, region, religion, communal, caste, base, pressure groups. H.R. Mahoods work on “Pressure groups in American politics”, in this book he gave detailed knowledge, of different pressure groups.

Norman D. Palemar’s book “The Indian political system” in his work he
analyses the role and relation between political parties in Indian political system. “Labour problems in Indian Industry” written V.V. Giri in this book he focuses on the problems of labour organizations in Indian industries. “Indian Trade Unions : A Survey which is written by V.B. Karnik deals with analytical study of different trade unions in India politics.

Haroled Croch’s “Trade unions and politics in India” in his work he explains the trade unions control over politics in India. Marry Ecksteins works on “Pressure groups politics” which provide detailed account various techniques of pressure groups to achieve their goal. F.G. Casteles “Pressure groups and political cultures” discusses the role of pressure groups in changing of political culture of citizen, Richrad1. Parks “India in Ward and Macridis” in this book he find out the political parties influence over pressure groups in Indian political system, Robert Hardgraves work entitled “India: Government and politics in a developing nation” in this book he explains the role of pressure groups in policy making process with reference to the Indian government.

Politics of influence, violence and pressure groups, (ed) by Verinder Grover in this work author analyses the Lobby’s impact on government. The process of government by F Arthur Bentley explains the interactions between government and groups. Bombwall, K.R. and Choudhery, L.P., aspects of democratic government and politics in India this book deals with freedom for the formation of groups in democratic nations. Political system by David Easton he explains how government respond the demands of the society through groups and associations.
Indian chambers of commerce and commercial associations by Gupta L.R. which analyses how the business groups are stronger than other pressure groups. Hartmann, political parties in India this book deals with changing of pressure groups loyalty towards political parties. Political elite in Bihar wrote by Satish Shekhar he examined how groups leaders play the dominant role in politics. Luttbey Norman R. book public opinion and public policy this book find out the how the pressure groups are articulate their interests and shaped them as public opinion.

RSS – Myth and reality which written by D.N. Mishra analyses how RSS as pressure groups and control the government in India. The modernity of tradition : political development wrote by Rudolph Koloyd and Rudolph Susane both were examine how pressure groups are formed and their contribution towards political development of India. The emergence of Indian nationalism : competition and collaboration in the later nineteenth century” by Seal, Anil this book focuses on the emergence of various groups in pre independence era and their contribution.

Political behaviour in India by Sirsikar V.M. which deals with pressure groups behaviour in Indian political system. A comparative study of intergraded groups and the political process by Gabriel Almond in this book the comparatively analysis the role of pressure groups in the developing countries. The study movement in India by M. Munireddy it provide the detailed accounts of students association as pressure groups. However, no comprehensive and scientific analysis regarding the Role of Pressure Groups in Indian Political System has been attempted so far and the present work aims at filing this gap.
LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY:

The present study is confined only to the pressure groups in India. It deals only with nature, growth in general and role of pressure groups in particular. However, this study discusses in brief political parties and pressure groups.

RESEARCH DESIGN:

The present study has been organized into six chapters as follows:

Chapter – I : Introduction
Chapter – II : Theoretical Aspects
Chapter – III : Political Dimensions
Chapter – IV : Types and Techniques of Pressure Groups
Chapter – V : Pressure Groups in Indian Politics
Chapter – VI : Summary and Conclusion.
NOTES AND REFERENCES


