

# Electoral and Political Reforms



# Democracy in India

**World's largest voting exercise held every five years in the elections to the Indian Parliament**

**Proliferation of candidates and Political Parties**

**Criminalization and influence of money and muscle power in politics**

**Inadequate info on candidates' backgrounds, assets and sources of income**

**No law to govern functioning and accountability of political parties**

**More than 75% of sources of funding for political parties' is unknown**

**Caste based and vote bank politics**

# Crime and Money in Politics

*“...in 2012 about Rs 10,000 crore of black money was spent in the 2012 Uttar Pradesh assembly elections. At 25 crore in each constituency, and over 4,000 assembly seats all over India, this amounts to Rs 1,00,000 crore. If we take the Lok Sabha elections with 543 seats, this adds up to another Rs 12,500 crore...”*

*- Dr. S.Y. Quraishi, Former Chief Election Commissioner*

**\*1 Crore = 10 Million**

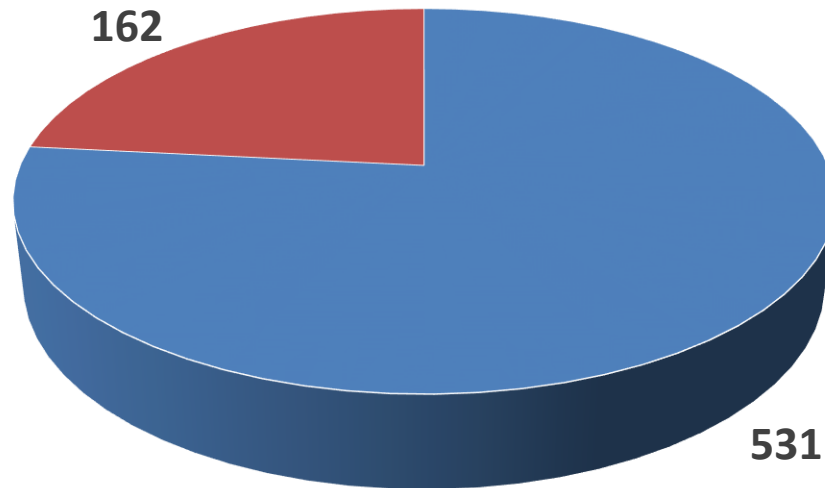
**Candidates with Serious Criminal Cases like Murder, Rape etc**

**Bribing of voters through Inducements like Liquor, Cash etc**

**Intimidation of some sections of the electorate for votes**

**Good Governance takes a backseat**

# Sitting MPs with Criminal Background



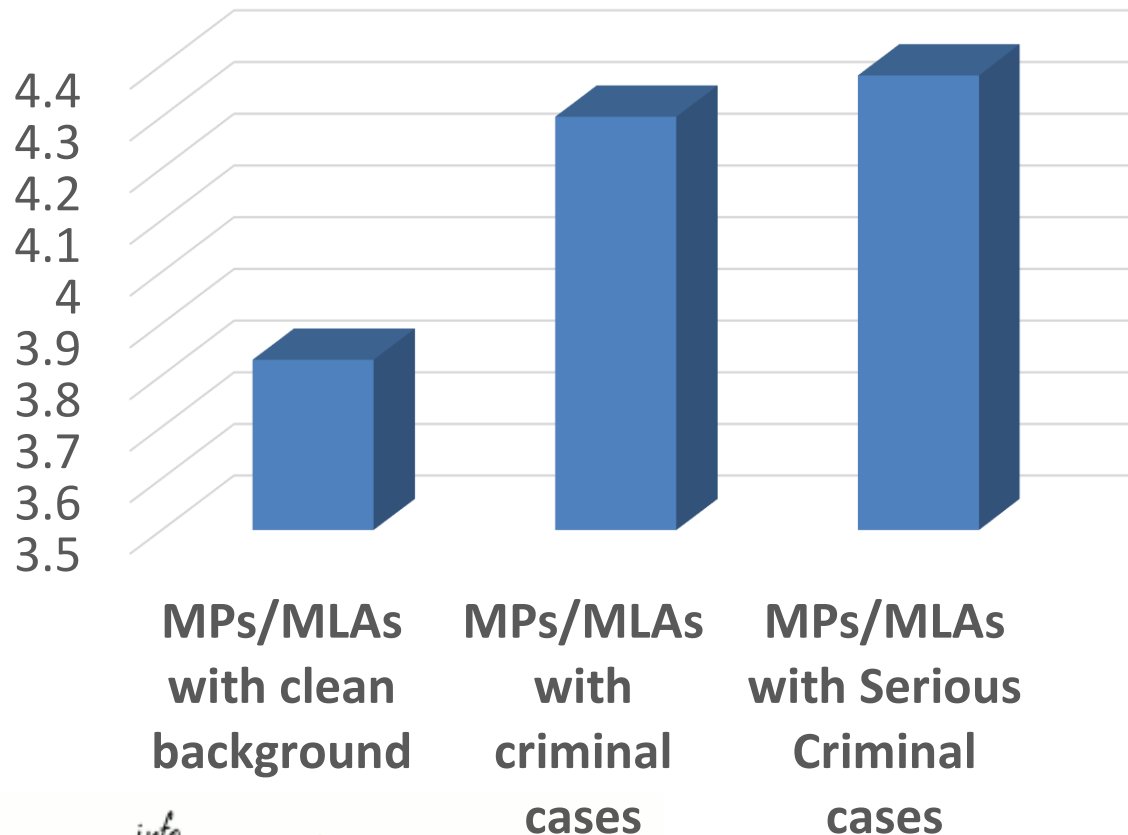
■ Criminal background

**31%** of MPs have declared Criminal Cases against themselves

**15%** of sitting MPs have declared Serious Criminal Cases; out of 531 Members of Parliament

# Average Assets of MPs and MLAs with Criminal Cases (2004 till September 2013)

Average Assets (in Crores)



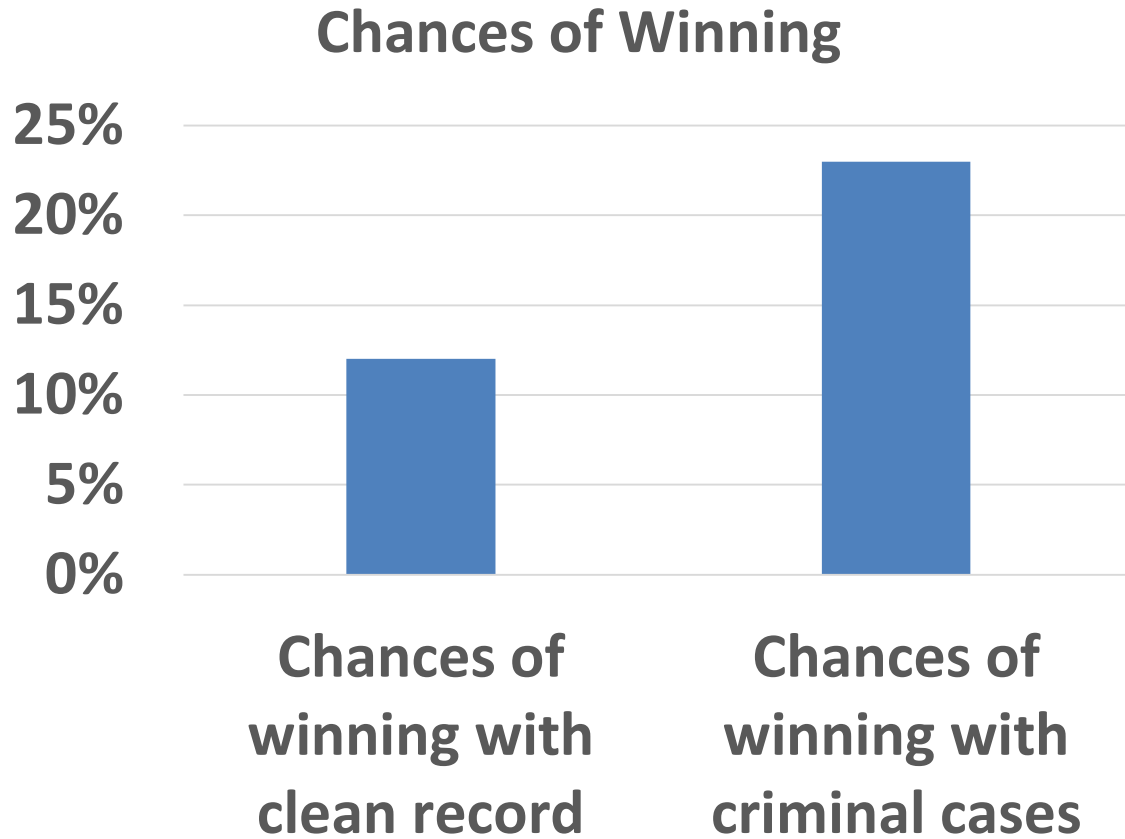
## Average Assets

**Rs. 3.83 Crores:**  
MPs/MLAs with clean background

**Rs. 4.30 Crores:**  
MPs/MLAs with criminal cases

**Rs. 4.38 Crores:**  
MPs/MLAs with serious criminal cases

# Chances of Winning (2004 till September 2013)



## Chances of Winning

**23%**

Chances of Winning for a Candidate with Criminal Cases

**12%**

Chances of Winning for a Candidate with a Clean Record

# % Increase in Assets of Re-elected Winners

**4161** Re-elected Winners were analysed since 2004 till September 2013

No. of Re-elected Winners	% Increase in Assets
<b>1615</b>	<b>&gt;200%</b>
<b>684</b>	<b>&gt;500%</b>
<b>420</b>	<b>&gt;800%</b>
<b>317</b>	<b>&gt;1000%</b>

# Political Parties In India

## Context

**1392 Registered Unrecognized Political Parties**

**6 National Parties and 55 State Recognized Parties**

**392 Registered Political Parties contested 543 seats in 2009**

**Political Parties influence and direct government policies**

**Proliferation of Political Parties**

## Challenges

**No Law Governing Political Parties**

**Lack of internal democracy in functioning of political parties**

**No ceiling on Election Expenses for Political Parties**

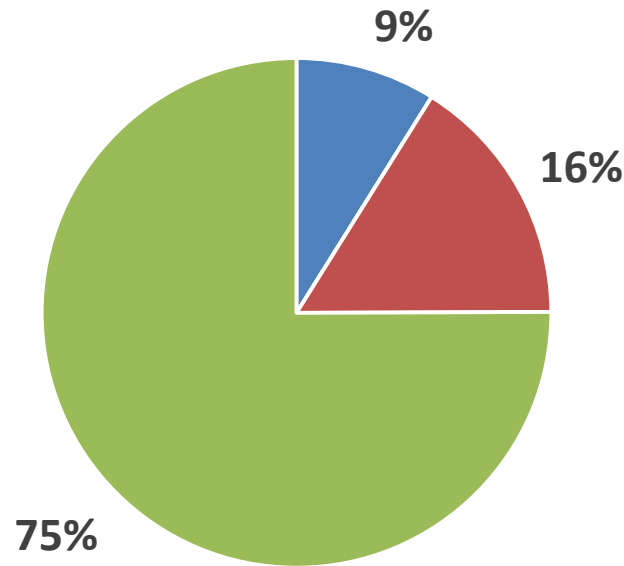
**Foreign Funding of Political Parties**

**Lack of financial transparency**



# Sources of Funding of Political Parties

Sources of Funding (in Percentage)



- Known Sources (Donations above 20,000)
- Other Known Income
- Unknown Sources of Income

## Sources of Income

**Rs. 435.85 Crores:**  
Known Sources of  
Income from Donation  
above Rs 20,000

**Rs. 785.60 Crores:**  
Other Known Sources of  
Income

**Rs. 3674.50 Crores:**  
Unknown Sources of  
Income

# MOVING TOWARDS ELECTORAL AND POLITICAL REFORMS

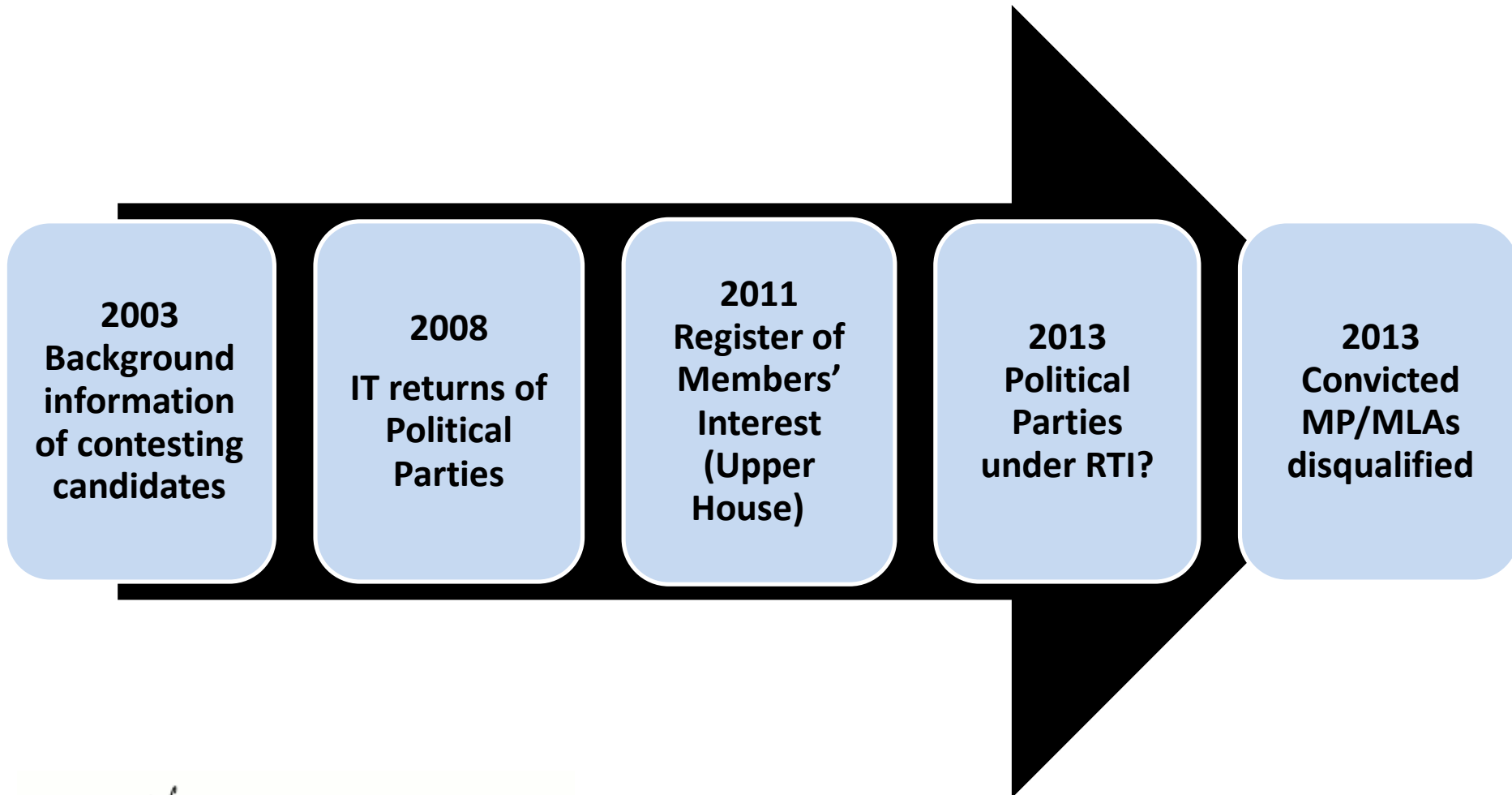
The Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) established in 1999 and has been working towards electoral and political reforms for more than a decade.

Our **goal** is to improve governance and strengthen democracy by continuous work in the area of Electoral and Political Reforms. The ambit of our work covers the following fields

- Reducing the influence of money and muscle power in politics
- Empowerment of the electorate through greater dissemination of information relating to the candidate and the parties, for a better and informed choice
- Financial transparency and accountability in the functioning of political parties
- Inner-party democracy and transparency in party-functioning and in the disclosure of candidates' profiles



# Steps Towards Transparency



# Recent Judgments Promoting Electoral Reforms

**Supreme Court Judgment to regulate distribution of “freebies” during elections**

**Supreme Court Judgment for an option of “None of the Above” on EVM Machines**

**Supreme Court Judgment for rejection of Nomination Papers and Affidavits which are not completely filled**

**Supreme Court Judgment stating that the ECI will provide a paper trail for vote cast through EVMs**

**Allahabad High Court Judgment against Caste Based Rallies**

# The Way Forward

**The Political Parties should be declared as Public Authorities so that their functioning could be transparent and be made more accountable**

**Charge-sheeted Candidates should be debarred from contesting elections**

**Comprehensive Bill to regulate the functioning of Political Parties to ensure inner party democracy and financial transparency within the political parties**

**The accounts of the political parties should be audited by the CAG appointed auditors**

**Implement ceiling on expenses of Political Parties during election period**

## The Way Forward

**Strict Laws should be passed to punish candidates involved in Electoral malpractices, particularly for buying of votes**

**The internal elections for the offices of political parties should be done using secret ballot and the culture of unanimous selection of the office bearers must stop**

**The ticket distribution process of the political parties should be made transparent**

**There should be a scrutiny of affidavits filed by candidates and strict action should be taken against those providing incorrect information**