



# Right To Recall LEGISLATORS



Recall is a process whereby the electorate has the power to remove the elected officials before the expiry of their term

## WHY TO GO FOR RTR?

- Enhance vertical accountability-At present, no recourse for the electorate if they are unhappy with their elected representative.
- Decrease role of Money power - morally skewed candidates would weigh the risk of being recalled

- International experience- in place in Canada's Legislative Assembly of British Columbia since 1995. In US, some states allow on specific grounds such as misconduct or malfeasance.
- Logic and justice - Like election, people should also have the power to remove the representatives

## ISSUES WITH RTR AT LOCAL LEVEL

- RTR in MP (RTR is operational for the past 16 years) revealed functional problems
  - Grounds for recall were arbitrary.
  - Signature verification procedure by the district collector was unsatisfactory
  - New voters who participated in recall elections had not voted in the general elections
- Overall, mixed impressions about the impact of the reform in MP.
- Since 2000, 33 recall elections held at the municipal level in the state, incumbent was recalled in 17 instances and not recalled in 16

## POSSIBLE CHALLENGES WITH RTR AT STATE and NATIONAL LEVEL

- De-stabilise- Former CEC S.Y. Quraishi is not in favour - it will "destabilise" the country as wherever there is discontent, people will start recalling,
- Election fatigue- by recalling/rejecting the candidates and having another election may cause election fatigue & lower voter turnout.
- Political tool-It could be misused especially in places such as Kashmir and North-Eastern states

## WAY FORWARD

- There is a need to evolve a unique model suitable to our needs, by learning from the rich experience at the local level, which does not threaten the political stability
- RTR can be introduced with adequate safeguards. For ex-a proposal for RTR would be initiated only after two years of election etc.

## PROVISIONS FOR RTR AT MUNICIPAL LEVEL IN INDIA

