

For immediate release

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50% MLAs in Maharashtra, 17% in Haryana, 5% in Arunachal have pending criminal charges against them according to self sworn affidavits

15 cases related to murder, 22 related to dacoity and kidnapping, 6 of extortion and lot more just on Maharashtra MLAs

More than 50% of assembly crorepati in all 3 states

Number of women MLAs very low in all states

Mr Julio Ribeiro, Prof Jagdeep Chhokar, Dr Nani Bath and others of National Election Watch vouch to continue to fight for cleaner politics

Delhi, October 23, 2009: Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and National Election Watch (NEW), a nationwide campaign comprising of more than 1200 NGOs and other citizen led organizations, has been working on electoral reforms, improving democracy and governance in India.

3 states went to polls on October 13, 2009. National Election Watch conducted election watches in all these states. The pre-election reports were shared with the media. The reports included looking at the affidavits and disseminating information based on criminal, financial and other background information.

Now that the election results are announced for the 3 states, National Election watch and its partners in all states have analyzed the affidavits of all the elected representatives and has come out with this information.

A total of 4944 candidates contested from 438 seats of 3 states- Maharashtra, Arunachal and Haryana. The total no of contestants from Maharashtra were 3565, from Haryana were 1222 and from Arunachal Pradesh were 157.

MLAs with criminal background: Out of 900 candidates with pending criminal cases who contested in these elections, a total of 161 won. In Maharashtra new MLAs have declared that they have pending criminal cases of such heinous crimes as dacoity, robbery, attempt to murder and extortion etc. There are 15 cases related to murder, 11 cases of dacoity, 2 of robbery, 5 of extortion, 6 related to kidnapping and several others pending against the newly elected MLAs of Maharashtra assembly. The breakup for each state, party wise is given below:

State	No of contesting candidates	affidavits looked into by NEW	candidates with criminal records	% of candidates with criminal records	No of seats contested	MLAs with pending criminal cases							Total MLAs with pending criminal cases	% of MLAs with criminal records
						BJP	INC	NCP	INLD	SHS	Others			
Maharashtra	3565	3297	803	24%	288	26	26	24	0	31	36	143	50%	
Haryana	1222	855	91	7.45%	90	0	5	0	6	0	4	15	16.67%	
Arunachal Pradesh	157	157	6	4%	60	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	5%	

Comparison with last assembly- The 2004 Maharashtra assembly had 132 or 45.83 %, MLAs with pending criminal records. The number of MLAs with pending criminal records in the new assembly is 143, which is 50% of the assembly.

The 2004 Arunachal Assembly had 3 or 5 % MLAs with pending criminal records. This time also same numbers of MLAs with pending criminal records have been selected to the assembly.

The 2005 Haryana Assembly had 28 or 31.11 % MLAs with pending criminal records. This number has come down to 15 in the current assembly which is a good sign.

Financial Background of MLAs:

There are a total of 284 crorepatis who have been elected to the three Vidhan Sabhas. The state and party wise distribution is:

State	Number of Crorepati MLAs							% of crorepati MLAs
	BJP MLAs	INC MLAs	NCP MLAs	INLD MLAs	SHS MLAs	Other MLAs	Total crorepati MLAs	
Maharashtra	29	53	50	0	20	32	184	63.89%
Haryana	2	32	0	19	0	12	65	72.22%
Arunachal Pradesh	2	25	3	0	0	5	35	58.33%

Comparison with last assembly- The 2004 Maharashtra assembly had 108 crorepati MLAs.

The 2004 Arunachal Assembly had 17 crorepati MLAs.

The 2005 Haryana Assembly had 47 crorepati MLAs.

No PAN declaration by crorepati MLAs:

Several MLAs have not declared their PAN no. Here is the distribution, both party wise and state wise:

State	Number of Crorepati MLAs who have not declared PAN						Total crorepati MLAs with PAN not given	Total no of crorepati MLAs	% of crorepati MLAs with PAN not given
	BJP MLAs	INC MLAs	NCP MLAs	INLD MLAs	SHS MLAs	Others			
Maharashtra	6	6	7	0	1	2	22	184	11.96%
Haryana	0	1	0	3	0	4	8	65	12.31%
Arunachal Pradesh	2	20	2	0	0	5	29	35	82.86%

Average Assets of MLAs:

The average assets of MLAs in most states are well in excess of 1 Cr. Here are the party wise and state wise details:

Average assets of MLAs						
State	All MLAs	BJP MLAs	INC MLAs	NCP MLAs	INLD MLAs	SHS MLAs
Maharashtra	Rs 47758834.05- 4 cror+	Rs 4,07,91,376 ~ 4 Cror+	Rs 4,32,56,564 ~ 4 Cror+	Rs 3,71,74,740 ~ 3 Cror+	0	Rs 3,85,14,077 ~ 3 Cror+
Haryana	Rs 65562792.67-6 cror +	Rs 2,65,72,222 ~ 2 Cror+	Rs 8,00,76,975 ~ 8 Cror+	0	Rs 3,59,73,014 ~ 3 Cror+	0
Arunachal Pradesh	Rs 66334629.58- 6 cror+	Rs 2,40,19,604 ~ 2 Cror+	Rs 3,63,03,883 ~ 3 Cror+	Rs 1,36,88,598 ~ 1 Cror+	0	0

Chances of winning based on assets:

The analysis also shows that if you have money, your chances of winning elections are much higher. NEW looked at the contesting candidates and their chances of success and have found that the more money you have, better are your chances of being elected. As can be seen from the table below, only 0.98% of candidates who had declared low assets, i.e. less than 10 lakhs, got elected for Maharashtra. This number was 2.34% for Haryana.

On the other hand, 48% of the candidates who contested and declared assets of more than 10 Crores, won from Maharashtra and about 44% of such candidates got elected for Haryana. For Arunachal, 53% of the candidates who declared assets of more than 1 Crore won the elections. This shows that the money plays a very powerful role in the elections.

Chances of winning based on money				
	Low Assets	Med Assets	High Assets	Very High Assets
Maharashtra	0.98%	7.91%	29.71%	47.46%
Haryana	2.34%	6.49%	16.94%	43.75%
Arunachal Pradesh	20%	22.22%	36.59%	53.13%

Asset ranges for the above table:

For Arunachal: Low assets: 0-5Lakh, Medium assets: 5Lakh-30Lakh, High assets: 30Lakh-1Cr, Very High assets: 1 Cr and above

For Maharashtra and Haryana: Low assets: 0 - 10 Lakh, Medium assets: 10 Lakh-1 Cr, High assets: 1 Crores -10 Cr, Very High assets: 10 Cr and above

If you have less than 5 Lakhs of assets, your chances of success seems to be pretty slim. A very small number of such candidates got elected in the recent elections.

Number of MLAs elected with declared assets less than 5 Lakhs							
	INC	NCP	BJP	INLD	AITC	Others	Total
Maharashtra	3	2	0	0	0	1	6
Haryana	0	0	0	4	0	0	4
Arunachal Pradesh	3	0	0	0	2	0	5

Women Representation:

Although several parties have publicly stated that they want more women to be represented in the Vidhan Sabha, the picture on the ground does not reflect this. The % of women in all assemblies is very low. Given below is the distribution party wise:

State	Women MLAs								
	BJP MLAs	INC MLAs	NCP MLAs	INLD MLAs	SHS MLAs	Others	Total Women MLAs	Total no of MLAs	% of women MLAs
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	60	5.00%
Haryana	1	7	0	1	0	0	9	90	8.89%
Maharashtra	2	5	2	0	1	1	11	288	3.82%

Comparison with last assembly- The 2004 Maharashtra assembly had 12 women MLAs. This number has fallen to 11 this time.

The 2004 Arunachal Assembly had no women MLAs. This time 3 women have emerged as winners.

The 2005 Haryana Assembly had 11 women MLAs. This number has fallen to 9 this time.

Talking about the criminal background of new MLAs of Maharashtra, **Former Supercop and Executive Chairman of Public Concern for Governance Trust, Julio Ribeiro** said he was extremely dismayed by the high proportion of elected MLA's with a criminal record."The parties failed to field clean candidates. It is now up to citizens and voters to increase their vigilance over their elected representatives. We will continue to fight for cleaner politics."

Talking about Haryana results, **Prof Jagdeep Chhokar, Former director IIM Ahmedabad and Founding member ADR** said, “While more than 72% of the MLAs being crorepatitis should normally be a good sign, one has to worry about the source of this wealth. Candidates should also be required to declare the source of their wealth and this should be correlated with their income tax returns. Fourteen MLAs with criminal cases pending against them is unacceptable. If the Law Minister wants no tainted person should be able to become a High Court or Supreme Court judge, similarly no tainted person should be allowed to become an MLA or MP.”

Commenting on the results from Arunachal Pradesh, **Dr Nani Bath of Rajiv Gandhi University of Itanagar** and a member of National Election Watch said, "The increasing number of crorepatitis in the Legislative Assembly elections of Arunachal Pradesh and their easy election reflects the 'commercialization of the politics' here. There is a great need to bring back the participation of common people in politics.”

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About NEW and ADR

The *National Election Watch (NEW)* is a nationwide campaign comprising of more than 1200 NGO and other citizen led organizations working on electoral reforms, improving democracy and governance in India. The National Election Watch is active in almost all states of India and has done election watch for all states and Lok Sabha elections since ADR, along with couple other organizations, won the PIL in Supreme Court in 2002 to making disclosure of educational, financial and criminal background of electoral candidates mandatory.

Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) is a Non-Political, Non-Partisan and a Non-Governmental Organization. It continues to works towards strengthening democracy and governance in India by focusing on fair and transparent electoral and political processes. It is currently conducting election watch in all states going for assembly polls. You can learn more about ADR at: <http://www.adrindia.org>