



Losing Security Deposit in Elections

Why in News?

Recently, despite a significant push in Haryana, a political party failed to win any seats in the local elections, resulting in the **forfeiture of candidates' security deposits** due to not meeting the required vote percentage.

Key Points

- **Security Deposit Mandate:**
 - As per the [Representation of People Act, 1951](#), candidates must deposit a security amount when contesting elections.
 - **For Parliamentary elections:** Rs. 25,000; for **Assembly elections:** Rs. 10,000.
 - This ensures that only genuinely committed candidates submit nominations.
- **Forfeiture of Security Deposit:**
 - A candidate must secure at least **one-sixth (16.67%)** of the total valid votes cast to retain the deposit, If not, the deposit is forfeited to the [Election Commission](#).
- **Example Calculation:**
 - In an Assembly seat with 200,000 votes, candidates must secure over 33,332 votes to avoid losing their deposit.

The Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951

- It regulates the actual conduct of **elections and by-elections**.
- RPA, 1951 provides **administrative machinery for conducting elections**.
- It deals with the **registration of political parties**.
- This specifies the qualifications and disqualifications for membership of the Houses.
- It provides provisions **to curb corrupt practices** and other offences.
- It lays down the **procedure for settling doubts** and disputes arising out of elections.

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