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**Question: What do you understand by comparative politics?
Explain its meaning, definition, nature and scope.**

Answer:

Meaning of Comparative Politics

Comparative Politics is a branch of political science that involves the study and comparison of different political systems, governments, policies, and political behaviors across various countries. Its main objective is to understand how political systems function in different nations and what similarities and differences exist among them.

In simple terms, when we compare the politics of one country with another, it is called Comparative Politics. For example, analyzing the differences and similarities between the democratic systems of India and the United States falls under the domain of Comparative Politics.

Definition of Comparative Politics

Several scholars have defined Comparative Politics. Here are some major definitions:

According to David Easton, “Comparative politics is the study of the inputs (public demands), outputs (government policies), and their effects in different political systems.”

Easton believed that in every political system, people have certain expectations from the government (inputs), the government works on them and formulates policies (outputs), and these policies ultimately impact the people. Comparative politics examines how this process functions in different countries.

According to Gabriel Almond, “Comparative politics is the study of the functioning and behavior of different political systems.”

Almond emphasized that comparative politics is not limited to the study of governments alone; rather, it also explores how people, governments, and political institutions operate in different countries.

According to J. C. Johari, “Comparative politics does not only study governments but also compares different political systems, their socio-economic foundations, institutions, and political behavior.”

Johari explained that comparative politics is not just about comparing governments but also examines how society, the economy, and the behavior of citizens influence politics.

In conclusion, comparative politics is not limited to comparing governments. It also encompasses the study of different political systems, political behavior, policies, and the influence of society and the economy on politics. This field of study helps us understand how politics functions in different countries and what factors make them distinct from one another.

Nature of Comparative Politics

The nature of Comparative Politics can be understood through the following points:

1. Based on Comparative Study – It draws conclusions by comparing political systems across different countries.
2. Broad Perspective – It does not focus solely on government and constitution but also studies social, economic, and cultural aspects.
3. Combination of Science and Art – This field uses a scientific approach to study political events but also involves reasoning and interpretation.
4. Behavioral Approach – It does not just study institutions (like constitutions, parliaments, etc.) but also analyzes the behavior of leaders, citizens, and political parties.
5. Continuously Evolving Field – Since politics keeps changing over time, Comparative Politics as a discipline also evolves accordingly.

Scope of Comparative Politics

The scope of Comparative Politics is vast and includes the following major areas:

1. Government Systems – Comparison of democracy, dictatorship, socialism, etc.
2. Constitution and Legal Framework – Study of different constitutions, their rights, and legal systems.
3. Political Parties and Electoral Systems – Role of political parties and election processes in different countries.

4. Democracy and Authoritarianism – Analysis of which countries have democratic governance and which follow authoritarian rule, along with their effects.
5. Policies and Administration – Study of policies and governance models of different nations.
6. Social and Economic Factors – The impact of society and economy on politics.

For example, if we compare the political systems of India and China, we observe that India is a democratic country with a multi-party system and regular elections, whereas China follows a communist model with a single-party rule and a different electoral process.

Conclusion

Comparative Politics is a crucial field of political science that compares different governments, political institutions, and policies across nations. This subject helps us to understand global politics. It is not limited to comparing governments but also examines society, economy, and people's political behavior. By studying Comparative Politics, we can learn how different countries tackle political challenges and how they can contribute to improving their own country's political system.