



# LABOUR PARTY IN UK

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# Introduction:

- Unlike the Liberal and Conservative parties, the Labor party was organized outside the Parliament.
- As a result of the electoral reforms and also due to the rise of political consciousness in the working classes.
- In 1899 a special Congress of Socialist groups, cooperative societies and Labor organizations formed in order to elect Labor members of the Parliament.
- Then, a Labor representation committee was formed which became the labor party later on.
- After 1920s Labor party emerged as the second largest party in the Parliament and Liberals gradually declined in strength.

# Organization of the party:

- It has a more elaborate organization.
- Prior to 1918 the party was only a federation of trade unions, trade councils, socialist societies, etc.
- And one could become a member of the party by joining any of these groups.
- But now the party has a new constitution and it is open to old and new voters as well as women.
- The party welcomes all kinds of workers – workers by brain and workers by hand – who endorse the principles of the party.

# Organization of the party .....

- Not only workers but also professionals, traders, businessmen, engineers, doctors, defense personnel, so on.
- The supreme governing authority of the party is the “**Conference**”.
- It is composed of delegates from all member organizations.
- They send one delegate for every 1000 members.

# Organization of the party .....

- The members of the national executive and the Parliamentary labor party candidates are ex-officio-members of the 'Conference'.
- It meets once a year and gives direction to the work of the party.
- The **Executive Committee consists of 28 members** out of which **12** are nominated by the trade unions, socialists, the professionals and Cooperative delegations together.
- **Eight** of them are nominated by the constituency organizations.
- **Five** women are nominated by any organization & elected by the 'Conference'.

# Organization ....

- There are **3 ex-officio members**, i.e. the leader of the party, deputy leader and treasurer.
- The chairman is elected annually by the 'Conference'
- The **Central Office** of the party is under the immediate direction of the party secretary.
- Secretary is elected by the party conference.
- The office gives directions for the party activities throughout the country & also maintained regional organizations.
- This office works under the direction of the Executive committee.

# Organization .....

- **The Parliamentary Labor party** is constituted of the MPs who belongs to the party.
- They elect their leader in the Parliament who becomes the PM in case the party gets majority otherwise opposition leader.
- **National council of Labor** is the coordinating agency consisting of **21** members - **7** representing Trade union congress, **5** Labor party executives, **4** Parliamentary labor party and **5** Cooperative Unions.
- This Council meets once a month and coordinates the party activities in various fields.

# Policies and programmes:

- Some of its programmes are –
  1. Greater provision for social welfare & social equality.
  2. More equitable distribution of national wealth.
  3. Common ownership of means of production.
  4. Reform of education through equality of educational opportunities.

# Policies and programmes .....

5. Faster economic growth.
6. Economic planning & economic security.
7. Industrial democracy.
8. Rich nations assisting poorer nations
9. Creating a classless society through democratic methods.
10. Rejecting the doctrine of capitalism.
11. Entry in to European Economic Community.
12. Continuance of western alliance.

# Policies and programmes.....

13. Opposition to colonialism, racialism and nuclear weapons.
14. Supporting peace keeping activities of the UN.
15. All social services to be rendered or performed by the state.
16. Private profit to be replaced or substituted by cooperative fellowship.
17. Freeing of dependent peoples & nations.
18. English bases not to be exploited by American interests.

# Conclusion:

- Thus, Labor party visualizes socialist ideology in which “the rich is robbed to feed the poor”.
- It puts democracy above socialism. It has extended democracy from political sphere to economics. It seeks to establish socialism only through democratic methods.
- The party went to the extent of proposing the abolition of House of Lords and other hereditary institutions in Britain.
- It supports heavy taxation in order to reduce the gap between the rich & the poor.