

The AIUDF and Its Electoral Performances in Assam Politics

Md. Nasirul Hoque

Research Scholar,

Dept. of Political Science Assam University, Silchar (Diphu Campus)

Abstract

The All India United Democratic Front (known as AIUDF) is a state political party which originated in Assam. The leader of the party is Moulana Badaruddin Ajmal who is the Member of Parliament at present. The Headquarter of the party is located in Guwahati. Moulana Badaruddin Ajmal established this party on 3rd October, 2005. Just a few months before the 2006 Assam Assembly election, Maulana Badruddin Ajmal supported by 18 NGO's formed a political party named Assam United Democratic Front (AUDF). Latter he re-launched the party in other states of India through a press meet in New Delhi on 2nd February 2009. Since then this party is known as AIUDF. The AIUDF has been playing a significant role in the electoral politics of Assam. In this paper an attempt is made to focus on the causes of origin of AIUDF and its electoral performances.

Keywords: AIUDF, Electoral Performance, Origin, Political Party etc.

Introduction

The All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) has emerged as one of the influential political parties of Assam. It was formerly known as AUDF (Assam United Democratic Front). It was formed ahead few months of Assam Assembly election, 2006 and won 10 seats of the state Assembly in the same election. Maulana Badruddin Ajmal is the President of AIUDF. The AIUDF has been playing a significant role in the electoral politics of Assam since its inception. In the Parliamentary election, 2009 it got one seat and the party won 18 seats in the last Assembly election of Assam in 2011. In 2014 Parliamentary election it got 3 seats from Assam. Now it has been playing the oppositional role in the politics of Assam.

The AIUDF plays a very effective role in the politics of Assam. Before the emergence of AIUDF the religious minorities were merely regarded as the vote bank by the political parties. But with the entry of the AIUDF into the electoral politics a major portion of the votes of the religious minorities of Assam are being casted in favour of this party. For Example, in the Assam Assembly election, 2011 this party was able to win 18 seats which were dominated by congress party earlier. Apart from the Congress, other political parties are also to suffer because of the emergence of AIUDF. The AIUDF, in fact, stands as a parallel contestant against Congress among the minority voters.

Objectives Of The Study

The objectives of the present study are as follows:

To find out the causes of origin of the AIUDF in the politics of Assam.

To assess the electoral performance of the AIUDF in the elections of Assam.

Methodology

This study makes use of both primary and secondary sources of data. Primary data are collected from the documents obtained from the AIUDF office, members, and leaders, and government documents. The secondary data are collected from the library. The descriptive method and interview method are applied in this study.

Causes of Origin of AIUDF

The Congress government at the centre during 2004-09 appointed Sachar Committee and its report has drawn the attention of the minority communities to issues of socio-economic backwardness and unity with the backward sections of the society. Sachar committee report has revolutionized the whole concept of the policy making of backward Muslims. Since the report the government has launched several fresh schemes which are benefiting Muslims. But the Muslims and other backward classes of people in Assam are not being benefited as per recommendations of Sachar Committee.

The socio-economic and socio-political conditions of the Muslims and the other backward classes of people in Assam are also, by no means, better than the other states of India. Again, The IMDT Act ensured security to the religious minorities of Assam against arbitrary treatment in the name of foreigners (Bangladeshi). But in 2005 this Act was repelled by the honourable Supreme Court of India. This stood as a threat before the religious minorities of Assam. In that critical juncture of time Moulana Badaruddin Ajmajal founded the Assam United Democratic Front. The newly originated political party assured the religious minorities that it would fight for their safety, and development along with the other deprived sections of the society.

Though the religious minorities play an important role in the population pattern of Assam but even after fifty eight years of Independence the major critical issues of the community in Assam remained same. These issues are land problems for the inhabitants of riverine (char) areas, rehabilitation of the victims of several past massacres, ethnic violence and settlement of foreigners issues as per the Assam Accord. Issues of citizen ID cards, implantation of the Assam District wise population pattern, Reflection in Service (in class III and IV posts) Act 1994. The newly formed party came forward with the above mentioned problems and assured their solution. A portion of the people of the religious minority community also established their faith on the party and came forward to support it.

Electoral performance of the AIUDF in Assam Politics

The electoral performance of AIUDF is very significant in Assam politics. The electoral performance of AIUDF since its inception is as bellow:

Table: 1.01

Performance of AIUDF in Assam Assembly election, 2006 & 2011

Years	No. of seats contested	No. of Seats won	Total valid votes won	Percentage of vote won
2006	69	10	11,91500	9.02
2011	78	18	17,37,415	12.57

Twenty eight political parties including national, regional and ethnic based political parties participated in 2006 Assam Assembly election. In that election AIUDF entered into electoral politics of Assam for the first time and played a very significant role which is well reflected in the above table (1.01). The above table also reflects that the AIUDF contested in 69 seats out of 126 Legislative Assembly Constituencies and won a total of 10 seats. In the said election total 11, 91,500 votes were polled in favour of AUDF which is 9.02 percentage of the total polled vote.

In 2011 Assam Assembly election the performance of AIUDF was very remarkable. The AIUDF contested in 78 seats out of 126 Legislative Assembly Constituencies of Assam and this time this party was able to bag total 18 seats. This time total 1737415 votes were polled in favour of the AIUDF and the percentage of winning votes of the AIUDF was 12.57. This time the AIUDF emerged as the second largest political party of Assam and has been playing the role of the main opposition party in the Assam Assembly.

Table: 1.02

Performance of AIUDF in 2009 & 2014 Parliamentary Elections

Years	No. of seats contested	No. of Seats won	Total valid votes won	Percentage of vote won
2009	09	01	19,54,901	16.10

Years	No. of seats contested	No. of Seats won	Total valid votes won	Percentage of vote won
2014	10	03	22,37,912	14.98

Table 1.02 highlights the performances of AIUDF in 15th Lok Sabha Election, 2009 and 16th Lok Sabha Election, 2014. In 2009 Parliamentary election the AIUDF participated in the parliamentary election first time and Maulana Badaruddin Ajmal, the party supremo won a seat of No. 4 Dhubri Parliamentary Constituency. In this election total 19, 54,901 valid votes were polled in favour of AIUDF and the percentage of the total vote that went in favour of AIUDF was 16.10.

Again in 2014 Parliamentary election the performance of AIUDF was also very impressive. In this election the AIUDF contested in 10 seats and became victorious in 3 seats. In this election total 2237912 valid votes were polled in favour of the AIUDF and the percentage of the total vote that went in favour of AIUDF was

14.98. This time the AIUDF became successful to create a good image even in the national level with three seats in the form of Party President Maulana Baduruddin Ajmal from No. 4 Dhubri Parliamentary Constituency, Sirajuddin Ajmal from No- 6 BARPETA Parliamentary Constituency and Radheshyam Biswas from No- 1 Karimganj constituency (S.C).

Conclusion

To conclude, it is seen that the AIUDF is one of the important political parties of Assam and it has been playing a significant role in the politics of Assam since its inception. This study reflects that the AIUDF came into existence in a very critical point of time for the religious minorities of Assam just after the repelling of the IMDT Act. Various socio-economic and socio-political problems of the minorities and other backward classes of Assam were also one of the reasons behind the formation of this party. This study also reflects that the AIUDF is an important political party of present time which has a very strong political base especially in the minority dominated areas of Assam. But this party has not been able to do anything remarkable for the said communities as it has neither been able to form government nor to be a part of the government either in the state or in the centre.

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