

# DONATIONS TO RECOGNISED PARTIES COME UNDER EC LENS

Relevant for: Indian Polity | Topic: Elections, Election Commission and the Electoral Reforms in India Incl. Political Parties

The Election Commission's ongoing drive to clean up the electoral space has now gone "beyond RUPPs" (registered unrecognised political parties) to cover recognised national and State parties, according to a top ECI official on Tuesday.

The EC has delisted or declared as inactive 537 registered unrecognised political parties since May for failing to comply with various rules and misusing the Income-Tax (I-T) exemption. The official said while taking action against the RUPPs, another discrepancy came to light, one that impacts recognised parties too. While the I-T Act allows cash donations of up to Rs. 2,000 only, the Representation of the People Act, 1951, requires parties to submit details to the EC of donations of above Rs. 20,000 each.

Last week, Chief Election Commission Rajiv Kumar wrote to the Law Ministry proposing changes to the mandatory reporting of donations. The EC proposed that parties should declare each donation over Rs. 2,000, rather than the existing limit of Rs. 20,000.

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