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① In the context of recent freebies debates, do u agree with the view that the current forms of welfare programmes need to be revisited?

Introduction - The political parties in India try to outdo each other in luring voters mind with assorted goods called Freebies, this trend has now gained momentum by providing innovative freebies such as Free electricity & water.

Negative impacts of Freebies in IND

① Drain on public

Spending:-

Freebies ultimately lead to excessive & unnecessary drain on public spending which results in economic burden on state.

② Rivalry disaster for other -

As govt reduces prices for consumers which benefits in turn govt ~~increase~~ ^{overcharge} industries & commercial contracts to balance their fiscal.

③ Increased fiscal deficit - subsidies

& freebies creates pressure on govt revenue collecting thus leading to increase in fiscal deficit.

④ This concept of freebies shakes the root of fair & free election sysm.

⑤ private ^{goods & services} freebies would no longer benefit consumers. (eg) free distribution of electricity.

Positive impact of Freebies in IND :-

① Free distribution of bicycles had improved girls enrollment in Bihar & distribution of rice at (-2 rs)/kg reduced starvation deaths.

② Freebies not only a manifesto during election campaigns, it also meets its constitutional obligation [DPSP] - Art (36-51)
(eg) MGNREGA, PDS, Free Covid vaccine

③ In the states where lower levels of development prevails, freebies become useful for upliftment of people specially underprivileged.

④ According to oxfam report (2022),

India is one of the most unequal
country where - richest - 1% - 51% wealth
bottom - 60% - 5% wealth
thus in this condition freebies being an
necessary installment.

Way Forward

- ① Freebies must be understood by the people from an economic perspective & connected to Taxpayers money.
- ② Cooperative federalism should be strengthen in coordination b/w centre & states about freebies which could lead to collective growth of nation.
- ③ Strengthening BCI model code of conduct for guidance of political parties to regulate their Manifesto during Campaigns
- ④ Free education & free meals can be encouraged which are basic necessities.

Conclusion - Therefore the political parties should change their economic policies in line with welfare objectives & on skill development rather than Freebies.