



The Politicians' Right to Privacy Versus The People's Right to Know

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Abstract: This research paper is based on the implications of the recent historic verdict of the Supreme Court which declared Right to Privacy as a fundamental right. It raised doubt concerning the status of people's right to information. Due to the ambiguous nature of the term 'privacy', the term has been variously interpreted giving rise to questions as to whether politicians' right to privacy is hindered by the people's right to know or not. The article as such deals with the two concepts of 'privacy' and 'information' in detail in order to find out whether both can coexist or the exercise of one hinders the

enjoyment of other. The article presents a detailed analysis of the descriptive-cum comparative and empirical research on the extent of awareness, attitude and participation of the masses regarding 'Right to Privacy' and 'Right to Information' in order to test the hypothesis whether 'people's right to know hinders politician's right to privacy.

Keywords: Right to Privacy, Right to Information, Fundamental Right, Politicians, People, Aadhaar Card, PAN Card.

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Introduction :

'Privacy' and 'Information' seems to be like the two sides of the same coin and yet the fulfilment of one leads to the curtailment of the other. Right to Privacy means an individual's right to be free from the public glare whereas, the Right to Information means that the individual is given a legal entitlement to extract information from the government authorities that affect themselves. While the former talks about 'secrecy' the latter stands for 'openness'. Both 'secrecy' and 'openness' cannot go together. 'Openness' connotes people's right to information which directly or indirectly conflicts with politicians' right to privacy or 'secrecy'. This raises the question, does the right to privacy extend to the politicians for their official acts or does it only pertain to their personal spheres? In order to understand the relationship between right to privacy and right to information, one first needs to understand the two terminologies in detail. According to Daniel J. Solove,