

Elections were Held in Indian Accounting World Even before Inception of ICAI in 1949.

The Indian Accountancy Board (regulator of accountancy profession in India before inception of ICAI in 1949), which was set up in 1932, consisted of not less than 15 and not more than 20 members all of whom were appointed by the Governor General in Council. The members of the Board were appointed for a period of three years.

This position continued for some time and gradually the elective element was brought into the constitution of the Board in 1939. Since then, the Indian Accountancy Board was composed of 21 members. The Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Commerce used to be Chairman of the Board. Six members were nominated by the Central Government, of whom two were persons in the service of Government and four persons were Registered Accountants entitled to train articled clerks. One Registered Accountant each was nominated by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and the Associated Chambers of Commerce respectively. Twelve members were elected by Registered Accountants.

For the purpose of elections there were six territorial constituencies. Three representatives each came from three provinces: (1) Province of Madras and the Indian States of Hyderabad, Mysore, Travancore and Cochin; (2) Province of Bombay and Western India States; (3) West Bengal and Assam. One representative each came from the other three constituencies: (1) The United Province, Bihar, the Central Provinces and Berar and Orissa; (2) East Punjab; (3) Delhi, Ajmer-Merwar and the

Rajputana States.

Every person on the list of Registered Accountants published by the Central Government in the Gazette of India at least eight weeks before the date of an election was entitled to vote in the election in his constituency. Every person on the list of Registered Accountants entitled to train articled clerks was eligible to stand for election to the constituency to which he belonged as per the list. The elections were conducted under the Compulsory Distributive System whereby each voter was entitled to a number of votes equal to the number of members to be elected from his constituency. The declaration form accompanying the voting paper was required to be signed by the voter in the presence of a Magistrate or a Notary Public or a Commissioner for Oaths or a Registrar of Joint Stock Companies or an Income Tax Officer, etc.

The person securing the largest number of valid votes was declared elected. In case of equality of votes the final selection rested with the Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Commerce. Any doubts or disputes arising as to the validity of election were determined by Central Government whose decision was final. The terms used to be of three years. In exceptional conditions, the Central Government had the power to either reduce the term of office of the member of the Board or extend it for a further specified period by notification in the Gazette of India.

(Source: History of Accountancy Profession in India – Volume I)

The Wisest are Those Who Know Their Ignorance.