

## Deputy Speaker

### Why in News?

The Opposition of 18<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha is demanding the post of Deputy Speaker in Lok Sabha.

### What is the position of Deputy Speaker in India?

- **Origin in India** - The post of Speaker and Deputy Speaker *originated in India in 1921* under the provisions of *Government of India Act of 1919* (Montague-Chelmsford Reforms).

*Sachidanand Sinha was the Deputy Speaker of the central legislative assembly in 1921.*

- **Nomenclature** - In 1921, Deputy Speaker was *called as Deputy President* but the *Government of India Act of 1935 changed* the nomenclatures of Deputy President to Deputy Speaker.
- However, the old nomenclature *continued till 1947* as the federal part of the 1935 Act was not implemented.
- **Constitutional provisions** - **Article 93** states that “The House of the People shall, as soon as may be, choose two members of the House to be respectively Speaker and Deputy Speaker”.

*Ananthasayanam Ayyangar was the first Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha in independent India.*

- **Article 178** of Indian Constitution mentions about the position of *Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly*.
- **Election** - Deputy Speaker is *elected by the Lok Sabha itself* from amongst its members after the election of the Speaker has taken place.
- The Deputy Speaker is elected once a motion proposing his or her name is carried.
- **Timing of appointment** - The Rule 8 of the *Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha* says that the election of Deputy Speaker “shall be held on such *date as the Speaker may fix*”.
- The election *usually takes place in the second session*, even though there is no bar on having this election in the first session of the new Lok Sabha or Assembly.
- But it is generally not delayed beyond the second session unless there are some genuine and unavoidable constraints.
- **Oath** - While assuming the office of Deputy Speaker, he/ she do *not make and*

subscribe any separate oath or affirmation.

To know more about **Parliamentary Oath**, Click [here](#)

- **Term** - Once elected, the Deputy Speaker usually continues in office until the dissolution of the House.
- However, he/she may vacate his/ her office earlier in any of the following three cases
  - If he/ she ceases to be a member of the Lok Sabha
  - If he/she resigns by writing to the Speaker; and
  - If he/ she is removed by a resolution passed by a majority of all the then members of the Lok Sabha (i.e., an effective majority). Such a resolution can be moved only after giving 14 days' advance notice.

*Under **Article 94 (and Article 179 for state Assemblies)**, the Deputy Speaker "shall vacate his office if he ceases to be a member of the House of the People".*

- Further, when a resolution for the removal of the Deputy Speaker is under consideration of the House, he/ she cannot preside at the sitting of the house, though he/ she may be present.
- Whenever the office of the Deputy Speaker falls vacant, the Lok Sabha elects another member to fill the vacancy.
- **Remuneration** - **Article 97** says that the salary and allowances are determined by the parliament which also includes sumptuary allowances.
- Thus, the Parliament enacted the Salaries and Allowances of Officers of Parliament Act in 1953.
- Deputy speaker comes under the ambit of 'officers of parliament'.
- They are charged on the consolidated fund of India and thus not subject to the annual vote of parliament.

### **What are powers and functions of Deputy Speaker?**

- **Article 95** of the Indian Constitution mentions about the power of the Deputy Speaker.
- **Relation with speaker** - Deputy Speaker is not subordinate to the Speaker but is directly responsible to the house.
- When the Speaker presides over the House, the Deputy Speaker is like any other ordinary member of the house.
- Speaker can resign from the post by writing to the Deputy Speaker.
- **Presiding power** - According to **Article 95(1)**, the Deputy Speaker performs the duties of the Speaker if the post is vacant or when the latter is absent from the sitting.
- In both the cases, he/ she assumes all the powers of the Speaker.

*After the first Speaker, G V Mavalankar, died in 1956 before his term ended, the then Deputy Speaker M Ananthasayanam Ayyangar filled in for the remaining tenure of Lok Sabha from 1956 to 1957.*

- **Role during joint sessions** - He/she also *presides over the joint sitting* of both the houses of parliament, in case the speaker is absent from such a sitting.
- **Voting power** - While presiding over the house, he/she cannot vote in the first instance and can *only exercise a casting vote* in the case of a tie.
- **Special privileges** - Whenever he / she is appointed as a member of a parliamentary committee, he/ she *automatically becomes its chairman*.
- Deputy Speaker acts as a *chairman of "Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions."*
- **Role in IPG** - The Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha is an *ex-officio vice-president* of Indian Parliamentary Group.

*The Indian Parliamentary Group (IPG) is an autonomous body, was formed in the year 1949 in pursuance of a motion adopted by the Constituent Assembly.*

### **What is current position of Deputy Speaker?**

- The previous Deputy Speaker was *Thambi Durai during the 16<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha (2014-19)*.
- **Vacant** - This constitutional post was *vacant during the entire period of 17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha* from 2019 to 2024.
- The Opposition had the post of Deputy Speaker continuously from 1990 through 2014.

*Usually, the post of Speaker comes from the ruling party (or ruling alliance), the post of Deputy Speaker goes to the opposition party (or opposition alliance) saving some exceptions.*

- **Challenges** - The *Constitution does not specify a time frame* for making the appointments.
- It is this gap in the provision that allows governments to delay or avoid appointing a Deputy Speaker.
- **Way forward** - Constitutional experts have pointed out that both Article 93 and Article 178 use the words "shall" and "as soon as may be" - indicating that not only is the election of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker mandatory, it must be held at the earliest.

### **Reference**

[The Indian Express| Demand for the Post of Deputy Speaker in 18<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha](#)