

Removal of Lok Sabha Speaker

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Why in News?

Recently, the Opposition moved a no-confidence motion against Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla over alleged procedural and partisan conduct during the Budget Session.

Speaker of the Lok Sabha

- **Speaker** - Om Birla was first elected Lok Sabha Speaker in 2019 (17th Lok Sabha).
- Later, he was re-elected in 2024 (18th Lok Sabha), becoming the first Speaker in 20 years to be re-elected.
- **Election** - Elected by the Lok Sabha from among its members; date fixed by the President.
- Holds office for the life of the Lok Sabha and continues even after dissolution till the new House meets.
- **Key Roles and Responsibilities - Maintaining Order** - Ensuring decorum and preventing disorderly conduct.
- **Procedural Compliance** - Final interpreters of the Constitution and rules of procedure within Lok Sabha.
- **Money Bills** - The Speaker has the final authority to decide if a bill is a Money Bill.
- **Anti-Defection Law** - Deciding on disqualification matters under the Tenth Schedule.
- **Casting Vote** - Voting only in the case of a tie.

Removal of Speaker

- **Constitutional Provision - Article 94(c)** - It allows the Speaker to be removed by a resolution of the House.
 - The resolution must pass by a majority of all members of the Lok Sabha (effective majority).
- **Article 94(a)** - Vacates office if ceases to be a Member of Parliament (MP).
- **Article 94(b)** - Can resign by writing to the Deputy Speaker.
- **Lok Sabha Rules** - Governed by Rules 200-203 of Lok Sabha Rules of Procedure.
- **Procedure for Removal of Speaker - Notice** - Written notice to the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha.
- **Notice Period** - At least 14 days before moving resolution.
- **Listing** - Motion listed in Business after 14 days.
- **Quorum for Admission** - At least 50 MPs must stand up in support.
- **Discussion Timeline** - Resolution taken up within 10 days of admission.

- **Voting** - Requires an effective majority of the total membership of the Lok Sabha.
- **Speaker's Position During Removal Motion** - Any motion submitted without the mandatory 14-day notice is not taken up for consideration.
- For admission, at least 50 MPs must rise in support; if not, the presiding officer denies leave and the motion lapses.
- The Speaker continues in office until the removal resolution is formally passed.
- The Speaker can participate and speak in the proceedings.
- The Speaker can vote only in the first instance, but not in the case of a tie.
- **Historical Precedents** - No Speaker of the Lok Sabha has ever been successfully removed from office so far through a no-confidence or removal motion.
- Removal motions against Lok Sabha Speakers were initiated in
 - **1954** - G.V. Mavalankar (first Speaker).
 - **1966** - Hukam Singh.
 - **1987** - Balram Jakhar.

Reference

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