Removal of Lok Sabha Speaker

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Polity*

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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