

# Lok Sabha Speaker

The History of Lok Sabha Speaker goes back to 1919. The terms Lok Sabha Speaker and Deputy Speaker were added much later. Here is a quick history on it.

- The institutions of Speaker and Deputy Speaker originated in the Government of India Act 1919 in the Montagu – Chelmsford Reforms.
- Up to 1947, the Speaker and Deputy Speaker were referred to as the President.
- The Governor-General of India used to preside over the Central Legislative Council before 1921.
- The Central Legislative Assembly's first Speaker and Deputy Speaker, respectively, were chosen to be Frederick Whyte and Sachidanand Sinha.
- The first Indian to be elected as Speaker of the Central Legislative Assembly was Vithalbhai J. Patel in 1925.
- The Government of India Act of 1935 changed the titles of President and Vice President to Speaker and Deputy Speaker, respectively. However, the previous titles were still in use until 1947 because the federal portion of the Act of 1935 was not put into effect.
- Ganesh Vasudev Mavalankar served as the speaker from 15th May 1952 to 27th February 1956.
- After independence, Ganesh Vasudev Mavalankar was appointed to serve as the Speaker of Lok Sabha from 15th May 1952 to 27th February 1956.
- Madabhushi Ananthasayanam Ayyangar was the first Deputy Speaker and then Speaker of the Lok Sabha in the Indian Parliament, serving from 30th May 1952 to 7th March 1956.

## Article 93 of Indian Constitution

As per Article 93 for the speaker and deputy speaker of Lok sabha, it states that as soon as possible, the House of the People shall elect two members to serve as its Speaker and Deputy Speaker, respectively. Whenever one of those positions becomes vacant, the House shall elect a new member to fill the vacancy, as appropriate.

## Lok Sabha Speaker Article

The Constitution of India has specified the provisions of Deputy Speaker and Lok Sabha Speaker in Articles 93 to Articles 96. The salient features of these Articles are as follows:

Constitutional Provisions of the Offices of Speaker and Deputy Speaker	
<b>Article 94</b>	It deals with the resignation, vacation leave, and removal provisions for the offices of Speaker and Deputy Speaker

<b>Article 95</b>	The Deputy Speaker's or another person's authority to carry out the functions of the Speaker or to act in that capacity
<b>Article 96</b>	The Speaker or the Deputy Speaker is allowed to preside when the resolution for his/her removal from office is under consideration.

## Powers of Speaker of Lok Sabha

The Speaker of the Lok Sabha derives his powers and duties from three sources: the Constitution of India, the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of Lok Sabha, and Parliamentary Conventions. They are the main spokesperson of the House, and the decision by them is final. As per the Indian Constitution, he/she is vested with the administrative and discretionary power that have been mentioned below here.

- He/She presides over all the meetings in the Lower house and maintains decorum among the members.
- The Lok Sabha speaker is responsible for guarding the rights and privileges of all the members who are there in the House. He decides who should speak, what kind of questions to be asked, etc.
- He/She decides whether a bill is a money bill or not, and his/her decision on this question is final.
- If a quorum is absent then he/she can adjourn the proceedings of the House or suspend the meeting till the time quorum is met.
- The Speaker decides the agenda that should be discussed during the meeting of the Parliament.
- He/She has great power to interpret the Rules of Procedure. He/She is a member of the House as well as the Presiding Officer.
- The Speaker has the power to disqualify a Member of Parliament from the House on the grounds of defection as per the 10th Schedule of the Constitution.
- As the Speaker of Lok Sabha, he has the power of motion of adjournment, the motion of no confidence, and the motion of censure, among others.

### Voting Powers of Lok Sabha Speaker

The Speaker of Lok Sabha is not entitled to cast a vote. However, he/she has the power to resolve a deadlock. He/She is allowed to call for a 'secret sitting of the house at the request of the Leader of the House.

### Lok Sabha Speaker's Administrative Role

The Lok Sabha Speaker is also the Head of the Lok Sabha Secretariat. His authority is supreme over the Secretariat staff of the House and its security arrangements. He/She decides the form and manner in which the proceedings of the House are published. There can be no alteration or addition in the Parliament house without the Speaker's permission. It is through the Speaker

that the decisions of the House are communicated to individuals and authorities outside the Parliament.

## Election of Speaker of Lok Sabha

There is no specific qualification to be elected as the Speaker of Lok Sabha. The Constitution of India states that he/she should be a member of the House. Usually, a member who belongs to the ruling party is elected as the Speaker. Here is the procedure for the election of Lok Sabha Speaker.

- The date of the election is fixed by the President. After the first sitting of the Lok Sabha, the Speaker is elected by the House from amongst its members.
- Whenever the office of the Speaker is vacant, the lower House
- The candidate's name is suggested by the prime minister or the minister of parliamentary affairs.
- If the House is newly constituted, the Speaker pro tem will preside over the election of the Speaker.
- The Deputy Speaker takes the gavel if the election takes place later in the term of a Lok Sabha.
- The Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition lead the Speaker-elect to the Chair once the results are declared.

## Term/Tenure of the Speaker of Lok Sabha

The **term of the Speaker of Lok Sabha is for five (5) years** from the date of his/her election to the day before the first Lok Sabha meeting. Here are some interesting points to note regarding the term of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha:

- The Speaker continues to remain in office until the first meeting of the newly elected member.
- He/She is eligible for re-election.
- The Speaker remains in office even though he or she is no longer a member of the Lok Sabha after it is dissolved.
- The Lok Sabha Speaker can vacate his office in any one of the following three cases:
  - If he/she ceases to be a member of Lok Sabha;
  - If he/she is removed by a resolution passed in the Lok Sabha.
  - If he/she resigns by writing to the Deputy Speaker

## Removal of Lok Sabha Speaker

The Speaker of Lok Sabha is elected for 5 years by its members by the majority of members present and voting in the house. However, he/she is liable to be removed by following proper procedures as mentioned in the Indian Constitution. When a resolution for his/her removal is under consideration of the House, he/she cannot preside over it, but can take part in its proceedings. Voting is also allowed but not in the case of equality of votes. Here are cases where the Lok Sabha Speaker can be removed.

- The Speaker can be removed if a resolution is passed by a majority of the Lok Sabha member, that is, by an absolute majority and not by an ordinary majority as per Article 94 and 95 of the Indian Constitution.
- A speaker can also be removed if he/she gets disqualified from being a Lok Sabha member under section 7 and 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
- The Speaker is permitted to speak and participate in the procedures of the House even though a motion to remove the Speaker is being discussed by the House. Additionally, he or she has the right to vote in the first round but not if the votes are evenly divided.

## Speaker Pro Tem

The President designates a member of the Lok Sabha as Speaker Pro Tem when the Speaker of the previous Lok Sabha steps down immediately before the first sitting of the newly elected Lok Sabha. The Speaker of the House in a vacancy-filled position. Typically, the most senior member is chosen for this position. The President swears the person in and has all the Speaker's authority. He or she gives the freshly elected House members their oaths. However, once the new Speaker of the Lok Sabha is chosen, his or her term ends.

## Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha

The Deputy Speaker is elected by the Lok Sabha amongst its members after the election of the Speaker. The date for the election of the Deputy Speaker is fixed by the Speaker since the 11th Lok Sabha. Prior to this, both Speaker and Deputy Speaker were elected by the ruling party. His/Her salary and allowances are fixed by Parliament and are charged to the Consolidated Fund of India.

### How is the Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha Elected?

The Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha is elected by the Lok Sabha amongst its members after the Speaker's election. Here is the election process of Lok Sabha Deputy Speaker:

- The Election of the Deputy Speaker takes place after the Speaker of Lok Sabha's election.
- The Speaker sets the day for the Deputy Speaker's election.
- There is no mention of the qualifications to become a Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha.
- The Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha is not entitled to take any oath or affirmation.

### Powers and Functions of Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha

The Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha performs his duties when the Speaker's office is vacant or is absent. Here are the major functions of the Deputy Speaker.

- He/She presides over the joint sitting of both the Houses of Parliament if the Speaker is absent.
- The Deputy Speaker can cast a vote in case of a tie.
- Whenever he/she is appointed as a member of a parliamentary committee, he/she automatically becomes its chairman.