



# Demand for Reforms in Rajya Sabha

## Why in News

Recently, the members of Parliament have demanded equal representation for states and more time to speak in Rajya Sabha.

## Representation for States

- The Upper House is the Council of States and thus it is expected to reflect the true spirit of federalism through the uniform representation for all states.
  - But, currently, the seats in Rajya Sabha are allotted on the **basis of population of the particular state**. Hence, the number of representatives **varies from state to state**. For example, Uttar Pradesh has 31 members while Tripura has 1 member only.
- Also, smaller states need to have more number of representatives in the house according to issues and needs of the state.
  - Currently, the northeastern states, barring Assam have only one seat each in the Rajya Sabha.
- The recent demand asks for allocation of seats in Rajya Sabha **on the lines of USA**.
  - In the USA, all states are given equal representation in the Senate, irrespective of their population. The USA has 50 states and the Senate has 100 members—2 from each state.

## Time to Speak in Rajya Sabha

- Currently, the **independent or nominated members** and MPs from **smaller parties** get **less time** to speak in the House. The **inadequacy of time** to speak for the **nominated members restricts** the **benefits** from their **special expertise**.
  - The members of Rajya Sabha are given time to speak according **to the strength of their party** in the House.

[Source:TH](#)