



Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha

[Source: IE](#)

Why in News?

- The recent increase in the Opposition's strength in the [Lok Sabha](#) has reignited their interest in securing the **Deputy Speaker's** post.
- This post has **remained vacant** throughout the **17th Lok Sabha (2019-24)**, marking a departure from the **16th Lok Sabha (2014-19)** where a [Member of Parliament \(MP\)](#) from the ruling party's ally held the office.

What is the Role of Deputy Speaker?

- **Constitutional Provisions:**
 - **Article 95(1):** It provides that the [Deputy Speaker](#) performs the duties of the Speaker if the post is vacant.
 - The Deputy Speaker has the **same powers as the Speaker** when presiding over the House.
 - All references to the **“Speaker”** in the Rules are deemed to be references to the **Deputy Speaker as well** for the times when he or she presides.
 - **Article 93:** It provides that Lok Sabha must, as soon as may be, choose **two members of the House** to be respectively **Speaker** and **Deputy Speaker**.
 - **Article 178:** It contains the corresponding provision for the Speakers and Deputy Speakers in the **State Assemblies**.
- **Compulsion of Choosing Deputy Speaker:**
 - The Constitution **does not specify a time frame** for choosing a Deputy Speaker, that allows governments to **delay or avoid** its appointment.
 - Article 93 and Article 178 use the words **“shall”** and **“as soon as may be”** which indicates that **not only is the election of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker mandatory, it must be held at the earliest**.
- **Rules for Election:**
 - The **Speaker/Dy Speaker** is elected from among the Lok Sabha members by a **simple majority of members present and voting**.
 - The election of a **Deputy Speaker** in Lok Sabha is governed by Rule 8 of the [Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business](#) in Lok Sabha.
 - The election of the **Deputy Speaker usually takes place in the second session but can occur in the first session** of the new Lok Sabha or Assembly.
 - The Deputy Speaker continues in office until the dissolution of the House.
- **Resignation/Removal:**
 - Under **Article 94** (and **Article 179** for state Assemblies), the Speaker or Deputy Speaker **will vacate office if they cease to be a member** of the House of the People.
 - They can **also resign or be removed from office** by a resolution of the House of the People **passed by a majority of all the members (absolute majority)**.
- **Deputy Speaker from Opposition:**
 - As per the Parliamentary Convention, the **opposition party has held the post of Deputy Speaker** of Lok Sabha on several occasions. This includes during the Congress-led UPA-I (2004-09) and UPA-II (2009-14) governments, as well as during the tenure of Prime

Ministers Atal Bihari Vajpayee (1999 to 2004), P V Narasimha Rao (1991-96), and Chandra Shekhar (1990-91).

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LOK SABHA SPEAKER

The **Constitutional/Ceremonial Head** of LS who presides over its day-to-day functioning

What **Speaker/Deputy Speaker** is for LS, the **Chairman/Dy Chairman** is for RS

ORIGIN IN INDIA

- 1921 (Gol Act of 1919) under the name **President and Dy President**

Gol Act of 1935 changed this nomenclature to Speaker and Deputy Speaker

ELECTION (BOTH SPEAKER & DY SPEAKER)

- Article 93, Part V
- By a **simple majority**
- Re-election - Eligible

ELECTION CRITERIA

- Should be a member of LS
- No specific qualifications
- Generally, belongs to the ruling party

TENURE

- 5 years (till immediately before first meeting of the next LS)

Speaker does not vacate his/her office upon dissolution of LS

POWERS

- Final **interpreter** of Constitutional provisions in LS; his/her **rulings are binding** in nature
- Presides over a **joint sitting** of the two Houses of Parliament
- Can adjourn the House/suspend the meeting in absence of **Quorum**
- Power of **Casting vote** to resolve a deadlock
- Decides:
 - if a bill is (not) a **money bill**
 - Disqualification** of LS members (under 10th Schedule) (granted via **52nd Amendment 1985**)

REMOVAL (CONDITIONS)

- If s/he **ceases to be a member** of LS
- Written Resignation** to Dy Speaker
- Removed by **Effective Majority**

Deputy Speaker Appointed as Speaker

- After the **first Speaker, G V Mavalankar** died in 1956 without completing his full term, **Deputy Speaker M Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** filled in for the remaining tenure of Lok Sabha from 1956 to 1957.
 - Ayyangar was later elected as Speaker of the second Lok Sabha.
- Similarly, after **G M C Balayogi** passed away in 2002, Deputy Speaker and Congress MP **P M Sayeed** became **acting Speaker** for two months until Manohar Joshi was elected Speaker.

Read more: [Deputy Speaker Election](#)

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Q1. Consider the following statements: (2017)

1. In the election for Lok Sabha or State Assembly, the winning candidate must get at least 50 percent of the votes polled, to be declared elected.
2. According to the provisions laid down in the Constitution of India, in Lok Sabha, the Speaker's post goes to the majority party and the Deputy Speaker's to the Opposition.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (d)

Q2. Regarding the office of the Lok Sabha speaker, consider the following statements: (2012)

1. He/She holds the office during the pleasure of the President.
2. He/She need not be a member of the House at the time of his/her election but has to become a member of the House within six months from the date of his/her election.
3. If he/she intends to resign, the letter of his/her resignation has to be addressed to the Deputy Speaker.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 3
- (d) None

Ans: (b)