

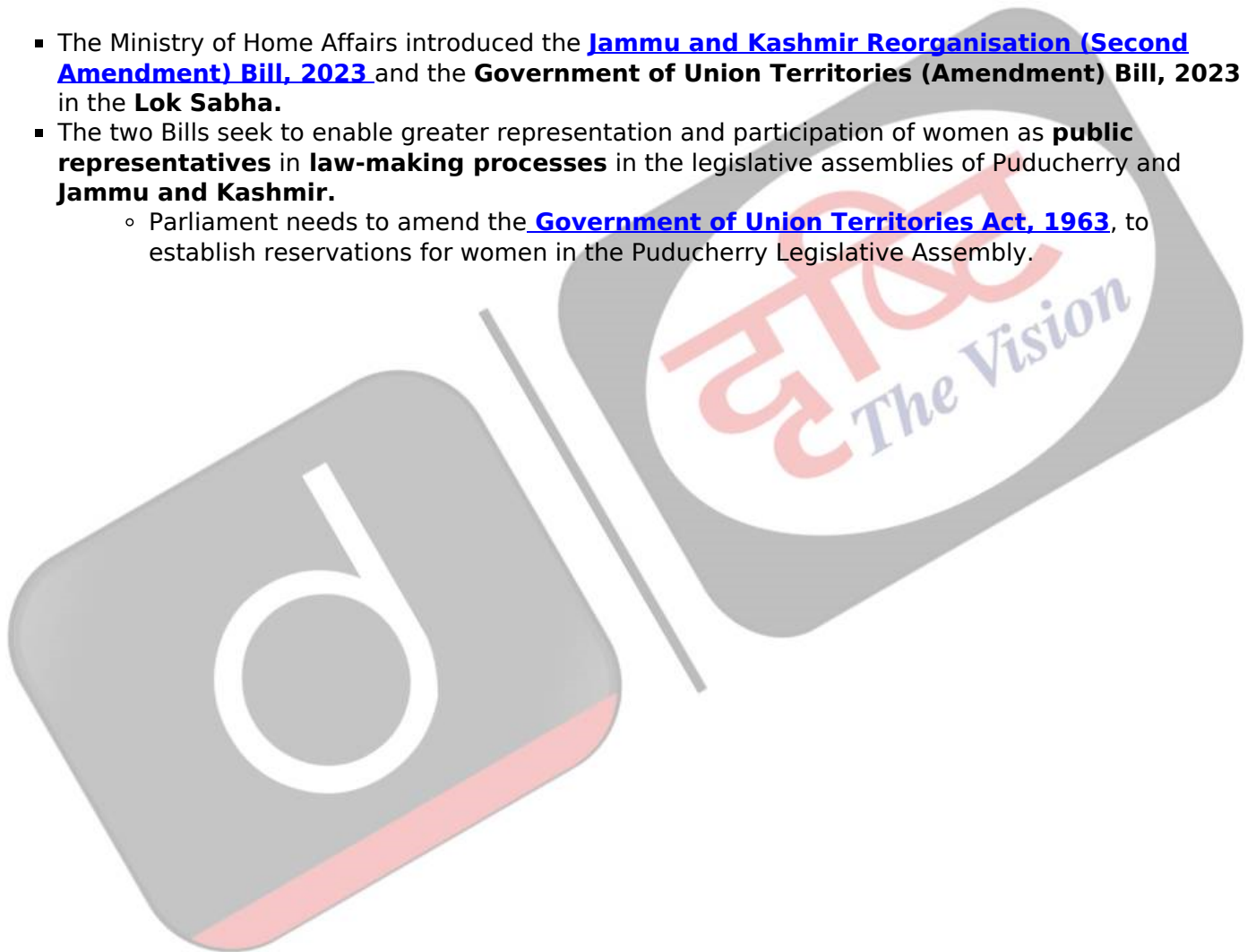


Bills for Women's Quota in J&K and Puducherry

Recently, the [Lok Sabha](#) passed two Bills to extend the provisions of the [Constitution \(106th Amendment\) Act, 2023](#) that grants **33%** reservation for women in Parliament and State legislatures to the Union Territories of [Puducherry](#) and [Jammu and Kashmir](#).

- The Ministry of Home Affairs introduced the [Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation \(Second Amendment\) Bill, 2023](#) and the **Government of Union Territories (Amendment) Bill, 2023** in the **Lok Sabha**.
- The two Bills seek to enable greater representation and participation of women as **public representatives** in **law-making processes** in the legislative assemblies of Puducherry and **Jammu and Kashmir**.
 - Parliament needs to amend the [Government of Union Territories Act, 1963](#), to establish reservations for women in the Puducherry Legislative Assembly.

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WOMEN Reservation Act, 2023

(106th Constitutional Amendment Act)

OBJECTIVE

- Reserve 1/3rd of total seats in LS and state Legislative Assemblies (LAs) for women

BACKGROUND

- Bill previously introduced in: 1996, 1998, 2009, 2010, 2014
- Related Committees:
 - Committee on the Status of Women in India (1971)
 - Committee under Margaret Alva (1987)
 - Geeta Mukherjee Committee (1996)
 - Committee on the Status of Women (2013)

Key Features

Articles Inserted:

- Article 330A - Reservation for Women in LS
- Article 332A - Reservation for Women in State LAs
- Article 239AA - Reservation for Women in NCT of Delhi
- Article 334A - Reservations to become effective after delimitation is undertaken and Census is conducted

Time Period:

- Reservation to be provided for 15 years (can be extended)

Rotation of Seats Reserved:

- After each delimitation

NEED

- Political Underrepresentation:
 - Only 82 Women MPs in LS (15.2%) and 31 in RS (13%)
 - On avg, women constitute only 9% of the total members in State LAs



ARGUMENTS

- In Favour:
 - Vital step towards gender equality
 - Broader range of perspectives to the decision-making process
 - Helps eliminate discrimination against women in political/public life
- Against:
 - Delimitation based on 2021 census (yet to be conducted) is mandatory
 - No women's reservation in RS and State Legislative Councils

STEPS AHEAD

- Reservation for women within political parties
- Independent political decision-making by women; overcoming Sarpanch-patism



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Read More: [Women Reservation Act, 2023 - Women in Politics](#)

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