



Women Reservation Bill, 2023

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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-patrim**



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