



## Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha

**Prelims:** Office of Speaker and Deputy speaker: Rules, Constitutional Provisions and Mandates, Provisions for Presiding Officers Of the parliament, Article 93, Article 94, Article 95.

**Mains:** Significance of the Office of Deputy Speaker.

[Source: TH](#)

### Why in News?

Despite being a constitutionally envisaged post vital for ensuring impartiality and continuity in the functioning of the Lok Sabha, the office of the [Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha](#) has remained vacant throughout the [17th Lok Sabha](#) and continues to be unfilled in the 18th.

- While the **Constitution sets no fixed timeline for the appointment**, the use of “shall” and “as soon as may be” in **Articles 93 and 178** makes the **election mandatory**.

### What are the Key Provisions Associated with the Office of Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha?

- **Constitutional Provisions:**
  - **Article 93:** It provides that Lok Sabha must, **as soon as may be**, choose **2 members of the House** to be respectively **Speaker and Deputy Speaker**.
  - **Article 94:** It provides the **procedures for the vacation, resignation and removal** of the **Speaker and Deputy Speaker** of the House of People or Lok Sabha.
  - **Article 95(1):** The **Deputy Speaker** performs the **Speaker's duties** when the **Speaker's post is vacant** and exercises the **same powers while 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 178:** It contains the corresponding provision for the **Speakers and Deputy Speakers in the State Assemblies**.
- **Election Process:**
  - The **Deputy Speaker**, (as well as **Speaker**) is elected from **among Lok Sabha members** by a **simple majority** of those present and voting.
  - [Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha](#) governs the election.
    - The **Speaker fixes the date** for electing the Deputy Speaker.
  - The **opposition party has held the post of Deputy Speaker** of Lok Sabha on several occasions. (But it is **not mandated** neither by constitution nor by any law, just a convention).
    - **Example** during UPA-I (2004–09), UPA-II (2009–14), and under Prime Ministers Vajpayee (1999–2004), PV Narasimha Rao (1991–96), and Chandra Shekhar

(1990-91).

- No separate oath is required; only the MP's oath under the **Third Schedule** suffices.

▪ **Tenure & Removal:**

- The Deputy Speaker, like the Speaker, holds office during the **life of the Lok Sabha** but may vacate it earlier in the following cases:
  - Ceases to be a **Lok Sabha member**;
  - **Resigns** by writing to the Speaker;
  - **Removed by a resolution** passed by a majority of the total Lok Sabha membership (**absolute majority**), with **14 days' prior notice**.
- Whenever the Deputy Speaker's post becomes vacant, the **Lok Sabha elects a new member to fill the position**.

## What is the Historical Background Associated with the Office of Deputy Speaker?

- The position of **Deputy Speaker** originated in the **Central Legislative Assembly** under British rule, known then as the "**Deputy President**." **Sachidanand Sinha** was the **first to hold this post in 1921**.
- After independence, **M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** became the **first elected Deputy Speaker of India's Lok Sabha**.
  - In 1956, following Speaker GV Mavalankar's demise, Ayyangar served as Acting Speaker and was later elected Speaker of the second Lok Sabha.

## What is the Significance of the Office of Deputy Speaker?

- **Ensures Legislative Continuity:** The Deputy Speaker ensures **uninterrupted functioning of the Lok Sabha** in the absence of the Speaker, maintaining **procedural order and preventing legislative paralysis**.
- **Constitutional Authority:** Mandated under **Article 93**, the Deputy Speaker holds an **independent constitutional position** and is **not subordinate to the Speaker**. The office is also associated with **key parliamentary committees** such as the **Rules Committee**.
- **Neutral and Impartial Role:** Upon election, the Deputy Speaker is expected to **function above party affiliations**, reinforcing **impartiality and public trust** in parliamentary procedures.
- **Democratic Inclusion & Consensus Building:** Traditionally **offered to the Opposition**, the post of Deputy Speaker serves as a **tool for bipartisan cooperation**, fostering **consensus-based politics** and **cross-party trust**. This convention **upholds institutional balance, promotes inclusivity in parliamentary leadership**, and **reinforces the democratic ethos** of the legislature.

### Note:

- The **Deputy Speaker** automatically becomes the **chairman** of any Parliamentary Committee when **appointed as a member of that committee**.

## What Safeguards are Required for Effective Functioning of the Deputy Speaker's Office?

- **Clear Time Frame for Election:** The Constitution can be amended or rules must be framed to **mandate the election of the Deputy Speaker** within a **specific period** (e.g., **within 30 days** of the first sitting of the new Lok Sabha).
  - A statutory provision could be introduced empowering the **President**, upon advice from

the Prime Minister, to **initiate** the election process if delayed beyond the prescribed period

- **Regular Delegation of Authority:** Institutionalising the **regular delegation of presiding duties to the Deputy Speaker**, even in the Speaker's presence, can **enhance administrative efficiency** and **affirm the functional relevance of the office**.
- **Clear Role Codification:** **Defining the Deputy Speaker's powers and responsibilities** through **detailed parliamentary rules or a statutory framework** would **reduce ambiguity and safeguard legislative neutrality** from executive influence.

## Conclusion

The Office of the Deputy Speaker in India is **not symbolic** but an essential pillar of parliamentary democracy. Upholding this office is a test of respect for **rule-based governance, institutional integrity**, and **democratic resilience**. It is imperative for Parliament to act promptly and in the spirit of the Constitution.

### **Drishti Mains Question:**

Discuss the constitutional and functional importance of the Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha.

## 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)**

**Mains:**

**Q.** To what extent, in your view, the Parliament is able to ensure accountability of the executive in India? (2021)

**Q.** How far do you think cooperation, competition and confrontation have shaped the nature of federation in India? Cite some recent examples to validate your answer. (2020)

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/deputy-speaker-of-lok-sabha-1>

