

Centre Rethinks Lok Sabha Expansion and Delimitation Bills

Parliamentary disruptions and Opposition pushback have prompted the Union Government to reconsider its priority regarding the proposed Lok Sabha expansion and Delimitation Bills.

Delimitation is the exercise of redrawing boundaries of Lok Sabha and State Assembly constituencies based on updated census data to reflect population changes.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- **Opposition parties** raised concerns regarding potential seat reduction for states that successfully implemented **population control** measures.
- Southern states including **Tamil Nadu** have urged that **political representation** must not be penalized due to lower population growth rates.
- The **Union Government** is likely to prioritize other pending legislative bills during the current **parliamentary session**.
- The proposed expansion of **Lok Sabha** seats requires constitutional consensus due to **federal representation** concerns.
- Current constituency seat allocations are frozen under existing constitutional provisions until the first **census** after the year **2026**.

STATICS & SYLLABUS FOCUS

Article 82 of the Constitution mandates the reallocation of Lok Sabha seats after every **decennial census**.

Article 170 governs the composition and constituency readjustment for **State Legislative Assemblies**.

The **42nd Constitutional Amendment Act 1976** froze constituency delimitation based on the **1971 Census** until the year 2000.

The **84th Constitutional Amendment Act 2002** extended the seat allocation freeze until the first census **post-2026**.

The **87th Constitutional Amendment Act 2003** permitted internal constituency readjustment based on the **2001 Census** without changing total seat numbers.

Four Delimitation Commissions have been constituted in India so far: in **1952, 1963, 1973, and 2002**.

Orders issued by the **Delimitation Commission** have the force of law and **cannot be challenged** in any court of law.

REVISION FLASHCARD

Under Article 82, the 84th Constitutional Amendment Act (2002) extended the freeze on Lok Sabha seat allocation until post-2026 census.

Syllabus Relevance: Crucial for Group 1, 2, 2A, and 4 exams under Unit 5 (Indian Polity) covering Articles 82, 170, and 84th Constitutional Amendment Act.

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