

Constitutional Provisions and Implications of Lok Sabha Delimitation

Analysis of Articles 81 and 82 regarding automatic delimitation after the upcoming census without constitutional amendments.

Delimitation is the official process of redrawing parliamentary and assembly constituency boundaries based on recent census population figures.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- In **April 2026**, the Union Government attempted to pass a Constitutional amendment on delimitation but lacked a **two-thirds majority**.
- Without new legislation, **Articles 81 and 82** mandate an automatic delimitation exercise after the publication of the **2027 Census** data.
- Under existing constitutional provisions, **Lok Sabha** constituencies will be reallocated among States based on population figures of the **2027 Census**.
- The deadlock highlights the requirement of a **two-thirds majority** in Parliament under **Article 368** for passing constitutional amendments.
- The delay or execution of the fresh **delimitation** process directly impacts the implementation timeline of **Women's Reservation** in Parliament.

STATICS & SYLLABUS FOCUS

Article 81 of the Constitution governs the composition of the **Lok Sabha** and allocation of seats among States.

Article 82 provides for the readjustment of Lok Sabha constituency boundaries after every decennial census by a **Delimitation Commission**.

Article 170 regulates the composition of State **Legislative Assemblies** and readjustment of assembly constituencies after each census.

The **42nd Constitutional Amendment Act** of 1976 froze the allocation of Lok Sabha seats based on the **1971 Census** until the year 2000.

The **84th Constitutional Amendment Act** of 2001 extended the freeze on Lok Sabha seat reallocation until the first census after **2026**.

The **87th Constitutional Amendment Act** of 2003 allowed boundary delimitation within states based on the **2001 Census** without altering total seat counts.

Delimitation Commissions in India have been set up four times: under Acts passed in **1952, 1962, 1972, and 2002**.

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

REVISION FLASHCARD

Articles 81 & 82 mandate Lok Sabha delimitation after census data publication; seat freeze extended to 2026 by 84th Amendment.

Syllabus Relevance: High relevance for Unit 5 (Indian Polity) covering Lok Sabha composition, Articles 81 & 82, and Constitutional Amendments.

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