

Lok Sabha Seat Increase: Jairam Ramesh Urges Retention of 1971 Freeze

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh dismissed claims of a 50% Lok Sabha seat increase as an "optical illusion."

The 1971 freeze refers to the constitutional provision that fixed the number of Lok Sabha seats based on the 1971 Census, suspended until 2026, to encourage population control.

KEY EXAM POINTS

- Congress leader **Jairam Ramesh** termed the talk of a **50%** Lok Sabha seat increase for all States an '**optical illusion**'.
- He urged the retention of the **1971 freeze** on the number of **Lok Sabha seats**.
- Ramesh argued that the government had removed **constitutional protection** for maintaining the **State-wise proportion** of seats in the Lok Sabha through previously defeated Bills.
- He referred to the **Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill** and the **Delimitation Bill** as the legislative package.
- The Constitution mandates **seat reallocation** in favour of more populous States unless the **1971 freeze** is explicitly retained.

STATICS & SYLLABUS FOCUS

The **Delimitation Commission** is constituted by the **President of India** under the **Delimitation Act**.

Article 82 of the Indian Constitution provides for the readjustment of **Lok Sabha constituencies** after **every census**.

The **42nd Constitutional Amendment Act** of **1976** froze the allocation of **Lok Sabha seats** to states and the division of each state into territorial constituencies until the year **2000**.

The **84th Constitutional Amendment Act** of **2001** extended this freeze on the number of **Lok Sabha seats** until **2026**.

The maximum strength of the **Lok Sabha** is **550 members**, with **530** from states and **20** from Union Territories.

Currently, the Lok Sabha has **543 members**, following the removal of nominated **Anglo-Indian members** by the **104th Amendment Act, 2019**.

The orders of the **Delimitation Commission** have the **force of law** and cannot be challenged in any court of law (**Article 329**).

REVISION FLASHCARD

The 1971 freeze on Lok Sabha seats was extended until 2026 by the 84th Constitutional Amendment Act of 2001.

Syllabus Relevance: High

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