

1. Removal Of Speaker- Polity

INDIA bloc parties seek removal of Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla for 'blatantly partisan' conduct of business

A resolution for the removal of the Lok Sabha Speaker requires an "effective majority" (majority of total strength excluding vacancies) under Article 94(c) and a 14-day mandatory notice period. While the Speaker cannot preside during the removal proceedings, they retain the right to speak and vote in the first instance.

No-Confidence Motion

A specific resolution for the removal (often termed a no-confidence motion) of the Lok Sabha Speaker has been submitted under Article 94(c) of the Constitution of India.

Office of the Lok Sabha Speaker

Role- The Speaker is the presiding officer and the constitutional and ceremonial head of the Lok Sabha (Lower House of Parliament).

Constitutional Basis- Article 93 mandates the election of both the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker.

Absence- In the Speaker's absence, the Deputy Speaker discharges their functions.

Convention- Generally, a member belonging to the ruling party is elected as the Speaker.

Financial Independence- To ensure autonomy, the salary and allowances of the Speaker are charged on the Consolidated Fund of India, meaning they are not subject to the annual vote of Parliament.

Appointment of the Lok Sabha Speaker

There are two primary methods for appointment-

Method 1 (Consensus/Nomination)- This is the most practiced method. The ruling party nominates a candidate after formal consultation with the opposition to ensure consensus.

Method 2 (Election/Contest)- This is the less practiced method. Both the ruling and opposition parties nominate their own candidates. The Speaker is then elected based on a vote cast by the Members of Parliament (MPs) present on the day of the election.

Historical Elections- In the 72-year history of the Lok Sabha, a contested election for the Speaker's post has occurred only thrice- 1952, 1976, and 2024.

Removal of the Speaker (Process & Provisions)

The procedure for removing the Speaker is strict to ensure the stability of the office.

Constitutional Provision- Article 94(c) governs the removal process.

Majority Required- The resolution must be passed by a majority of all the then members of the House. This is technically known as an Effective Majority (Total Strength of the House minus Vacancies).

Notice Requirement- A written notice of at least 14 days must be given before moving the resolution.

Admission Support- The motion must have the support of at least 50 members to be admitted for discussion.

Consequence- If passed, the Speaker is removed from the Chair immediately but continues to serve as an MP.

Status During the Pendency of Motion- The Speaker cannot preside over the House while the resolution for their removal is under discussion. The Deputy Speaker (or another member in their absence) presides. The Speaker retains the right to speak, participate, and defend themselves during the proceedings.

Historical Precedents of Removal Motions

Success Rate- No Speaker of the Lok Sabha has ever been successfully removed from office through such a motion.

Notable Attempts

- 1954- A motion was moved against the first Speaker, G.V. Mavalankar.
- 1966- Speaker Hukam Singh faced a similar removal motion.

3. 1987- A motion was moved against Speaker Balram Jakhar.

Other Exits from Office

Resignation- Neelam Sanjiva Reddy resigned in 1969 to contest for President (he later became the President of India).

Death in Office

1. G.V. Mavalankar (First Speaker) died while serving.
2. G.M.C. Balayogi died in a helicopter crash in 2002 while in office.

Source- <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/congress-opposition-no-confidence-motion-parliament-lok-sabha-om-birla-updates/article70614236.ece>

