

Speaker of Lok Sabha and Chairman of Rajya Sabha are also determined by the Parliament. They are charged on the Consolidated Fund of India and are not subject to annual vote of the Parliament.

### Prelims questions:

2002

1. The term of the Lok Sabha
  - (a) Cannot be extended under any circumstances
  - (b) Can be extended by six months at a time
  - (c) Can be extended by one year at time during the proclamation of emergency
  - (d) Can be extended for two years at a time during the proclamation of emergency

Ans: (c)

## 5. Presiding Officers of the Parliament

### 5.1. The Speaker of Lok Sabha

The office of the Speaker occupies a pivotal position in our parliamentary democracy. It has been said of the office of the Speaker that while the members of Parliament represent the individual constituencies, the Speaker represents the full authority of the House.

Even though the Speaker speaks rarely in the House, when he does, he speaks for the House as a whole. The Speaker is looked upon as the true guardian of the traditions of parliamentary democracy. Her unique position is illustrated by the fact that he is placed very high in the Warrant of Precedence in our country, standing next only to the President, the Vice-President and the Prime Minister. In India, through the Constitution of the land, through the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha and through the practices and conventions, adequate powers are vested in the office of the Speaker to help her in the smooth conduct of the parliamentary proceedings and for protecting the independence and impartiality of the office.

#### i) Election

In the Lok Sabha, the lower House of the Indian Parliament, both Presiding Officers—the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker—are elected from among its members by an absolute majority and removed by an effective majority. As such, no specific qualifications are prescribed for being elected the Speaker. The Constitution only requires that Speaker should be a member of the House. One of the first acts of a newly constituted House is to elect the Speaker. Usually, a member belonging to the ruling party is elected the Speaker. A healthy convention, however, has evolved over the years whereby the ruling party nominates its candidate after informal consultations with the Leaders of other Parties and Groups in the House. This convention ensures that once elected, the Speaker enjoys the respect of all sections of the House. There are also instances when members not belonging to the ruling party or coalition were elected to the office of the Speaker. The Speaker pro-tem presides over the sitting in which the Speaker is elected, if it is a newly constituted House. If the election falls later in the life of a Lok Sabha, the Deputy Speaker presides.

The speaker has to vacate his office in case of following instances:

- a. If he ceases to be a member of the Lok Sabha
- b. If he resigns by writing to the Deputy Speaker
- c. If he is removed by a resolution passed by a majority of all members of the Lok Sabha. When such a resolution is under consideration, he cannot preside at the sitting though he may be present. However he can speak and take part in the proceedings and vote in the first instance (though not in case of equality of votes)