

PRESIDING OFFICIALS

There are presiding officials for each House, as mentioned below:

Speaker

Each of the Houses has its own presiding official and secretarial staff. There will

be a Speaker, as a presiding officer of the Lok Sabha. Lok Sabha, in its first

sitting, will choose two members from the House to be the Speaker and Deputy

Speaker respectively.

The main job of the Speaker is to preside over the sessions. The Speaker will Legislature

have the final power to maintain order when the Lok Sabha is in session and to

interpret its Rules of Procedure. The Speaker's conduct in regulating the procedure

or maintaining order in the House will not be subject to any court's jurisdiction.

In the absence of a quorum, it will be the duty of the Speaker to adjourn the

House or to suspend the meeting, until the quorum is fulfilled.

Also, he/she will not vote in the first instance, but shall exercise a casting vote in

case of a tie. The absence of vote in the first instance is to make the position of

the Speaker impartial; and the casting vote is there to resolve an impasse.

Besides presiding over the House, the Speaker enjoys certain powers unlike the

Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha. These are:

1) The Speaker shall preside over a joint sitting of the two Houses of Parliament.

2) When a Money Bill is passed from the lower house to the upper house, the

Speaker shall endorse a certificate on the Bill of it being a Money Bill. With

this, the subsequent procedure in the passage of the Bill will be governed,

as per the provisions relating to the passage of the Money Bills.

The term of the Speaker or Deputy Speaker is co-terminus with the Lok Sabha.

However, the office may terminate early also, if he/she ceases to be a member of

the House or resigns or is removed from office by a resolution, passed by a

majority of all the members of the House. However, such a resolution shall not

be moved unless 14 days notice has been given of the intention to move the

resolution. While a resolution for his/her removal is under

consideration, the

Speaker shall not preside the session of the House. However, he/she will retain

the right to speak and take part in the proceedings of the House.

When the office of Speaker is vacant or the Speaker is absent from a sitting of

the House, the Deputy Speaker will preside, except when a resolution for his/her

own removal is under consideration.

Chairperson

In the Rajya Sabha, the Chairperson is the presiding officer. While in the Lok

Sabha, the Speaker is elected by the members from among themselves, the

Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha is an ex-officio position. The Vice President of

India is the ex-officio Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha and is Presiding Officer of

the House so long, as he does not officiate, as the President of India during a

casual vacancy in that office. When the Chairperson has to officiate, the Deputy

Chairperson performs the duty of the presiding officer. The Chairperson's term

is co-terminus to the office of the Vice-President.

The functions of the Chairperson in the Rajya Sabha are similar to those of the

Speaker of the Lok Sabha except that the Speaker has certain special powers of

certifying a Money Bill, or presiding over a joint sitting of the two Houses.