

Delimitation Act

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If a country is following the single electorate system it is very essential that the population of each and every constituency should be equal so that the constituency with greater number of population should not affect the decision of constituency with lesser population.

Delimitation is generally defined as the process of reallocating the boundaries of constituencies based on the change in the population of the country. This job of delimitation has to be given to a body with high powers and this body is known as delimitation commission or boundary commission.

Objectives of the Act

- Readjust the boundaries of every constituency after a regular interval of time.
- To ensure allocation of the seats in the Lok Sabha and the seats in assembly of every state.
- To ensure that each and every states and union territory that have a legislative assembly should organise territorial constituency elections.
- To ensure equal representation to equal division of the population
- To ensure that the division of area should be geographically fair and no party can take advantage of the same.

As per Article 82 of the Indian Constitution, after every census the government needs to re adjust the boundaries of each constituency. This division is kept in mind the seats of the Lok Sabha and assemblies of states. This Article also states that the new division should in no manner affect the representation in the house of people. As per article 170 of the Indian constitution, for the composition of state assembly it is important to maintain certain number of seats in the house and for that purpose each territory is divided into constituencies. This division also is based on the Delimitation Act.

Once this act came into force, since then the central government has had the duty to form a delimitation committee.

This delimitation committee is formed as per the orders of the president besides the chief election commissioner.

This delimitation committee is composed of three members-

- Retired judge of the supreme court- he is usually the one who heads the committee
- Chief election commissioner- he is usually the ex officio chairman
- State assembly election commissioners- they also act as the ex officio chairman of the committee.

The Delimitation Act this act helps in defining the nature as well as the area of the constituency which is very important as it helps in defining the primary area and the population that is encompassed in that area.

However there are some problems in the act. There is a lot of difference between work done on paper and work done in reality. Due to uneven distribution of population in different areas of the country it is practically impossible for the government to redistribute the population even in approximately equal proportions.

Also it is also very wrong to allocate the party in the power the right to re-measure the population and constituency considering the fact that they may try to influence the votes by crating the division in their own favour.

Hence one can say that the delimitation act is necessary to ensure a smooth conduct of elections in the country.