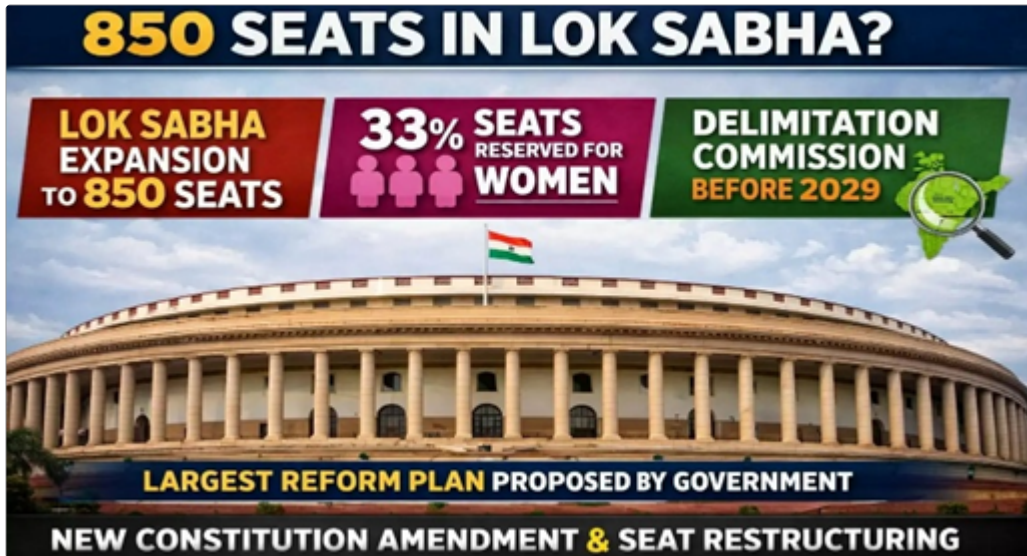




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Constitutional Amendment Bill proposes to expand LS seats from 543 to 850

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What is the Bill about?

The Central Government has proposed a Constitution Amendment Bill.

It aims to increase the number of seats in Lok Sabha from 543 to around 850.

Why is this change proposed?

Lok Sabha seats represent the population of India. Over time, population increases, so representation should also increase.

The main goal is to implement 33% reservation for women in Parliament.

More seats are needed so that reservation can be applied without reducing existing representation.

Key Provisions of the Bill:

Total seats may increase to 850.

Out of these:

815 seats for states

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35 seats for Union Territories

Changes will be done by amending Article 81 of the Constitution.

Connection with Delimitation:

Delimitation = Redrawing constituency boundaries based on population.

Seats will be distributed based on the latest Census data (likely 2011 or upcoming census).

A delimitation exercise will decide how seats are divided among states.

When will it be implemented?

Expected to be (implemented) by 2029 Lok Sabha elections.

Government's View:

Better representation of people

Smooth implementation of women's reservation law (Nari Shakti Vandan Act)

Concerns & Criticism:

Opposition parties have raised issues:

Fear that southern states may lose representation due to population differences.

Concern over using old census data (2011) instead of new data.

Allegation that the bill is being rushed without proper discussion.

Important Constitutional Point:

Any Constitutional Amendment requires:

Special majority in Parliament (2/3rd)

Sometimes approval by states as well

In Simple Terms:

The government wants to increase Lok Sabha seats from 543 to 850 so that more people (especially women) can be represented properly.

However, it is also controversial because it may change the political balance between states.