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Women's Reservation Bill: Govt Formula Explained

Published On: 01-04-2026



What is the Women's Reservation Bill?

It is a law to reserve 33% seats for women in:

Lok Sabha

State Assemblies

Aim:

Increase women's participation in politics

Improve gender equality in decision-making

Key issue: Why is it not implemented yet?

The law has a special condition (govt formula):

Reservation will start only after:

Next Census

Then Delimitation (redrawing of constituencies)

This creates a delay in implementation.

What is Delimitation? (Simple meaning)

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Delimitation = Redrawing boundaries of constituencies

Done after census to reflect population changes

Why linked to the bill?

Govt says it ensures:

Fair distribution of reserved seats

Increase in total seats if needed

Govt's "Formula" (Core idea)

The government's approach is:

First Census ? Then Delimitation ? Then Women's Reservation

This ensures:

Updated population data

Proper seat allocation

But it also means:

Implementation is delayed by years

When will it likely be implemented?

Census expected after 2026

Then delimitation exercise

So:

Reservation may start around 2029 or later

Why is this formula controversial?

Delay concern

Critics say:

Govt is delaying implementation indirectly

No fixed timeline

Census and delimitation dates are uncertain

Political concerns

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Delimitation may:

Change seat distribution among states

Affect political balance

Govt's justification

Govt argues:

Linking with delimitation ensures fair and scientific allocation

More seats can be created ? benefiting both men and women

New development (Important)

Govt is now exploring:

Delinking reservation from delimitation

Possible idea:

Temporary system (like lottery) to implement quota earlier

Other key features of the Bill

33% reservation includes SC/ST women

Seats will rotate after each delimitation

Reservation will last 15 years (can be extended)

Final takeaway

The Women's Reservation Bill is delayed because the government has linked it to census and delimitation, though efforts are now being made to implement it earlier.