

WOMEN RESERVATION BILL

On **19-9-2023**, the Constitution (**One hundred and Twenty-eighth Amendment**) **Bill, 2023** was introduced in Lok Sabha by the Law Minister, Arjun Ram Meghwal to amend the Constitution of India. This Constitutional Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha, the “**Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam**” which aims to promote women led development resulting in substantial improvement in financial independence of women and availability of equal access to education and health. Objective of Bill: To enable greater participation of women as public representatives in policy making at State and National level. A fresh legislation for Constitutional amendment to provide for 1/3rd of total seats in the House of People, the legislative assembly for every State and Legislative Assembly ('Assembly') of the National Capital Territory of Delhi ('NCT') to be reserved for women.

As per Article 81 of the Constitution, the composition of the Lok Sabha should represent changes in the population. The number of seats has remained more or less the same since the delimitation exercise carried out in 1976 on the basis of the 1971 Census. In 1971, India's population was 54 crore, and the total seats were 543. Today, the population is estimated to be 140 crore, while the total number of seats has remained the same.

The ratio between the number of seats in a state and the population has been kept nearly the same for all the states to ensure every state is equally represented.