

Who presides over each House?

Compare selection, membership, voting rules and special powers of the Speaker and Chairman

• Presiding Officers of Parliament

◆ Lok Sabha Speaker

Elected by the Lok Sabha from among its own sitting members after the House convenes.

Continues in office even after Lok Sabha dissolution until just before the new House’s first meeting.

G. V. Mavalankar was the first Lok Sabha Speaker and is called the ‘Father of the Lok Sabha’.

◆ Deputy presiding officers

Lok Sabha elects its Deputy Speaker from its members under Article 93.

Rajya Sabha elects a Deputy Chairman from among its own members under Article 89(2).

They preside when the Speaker or Chairman is absent or when the principal office falls vacant.

○ Rajya Sabha Chairman

The Vice-President of India is the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha under Articles 64 and 89(1).

Unlike the Speaker, the Chairman is not a member of the House over which he or she presides.

When the Vice-President acts as President of India, he or she does not perform the duties of Chairman.

□ Presiding and voting

Both Speaker and Chairman do not vote in the first instance, but cast a vote in case of a tie (Art 100).

The Speaker certifies a Money Bill under Article 110; constitutional review is a separate issue.

The Speaker normally presides over a joint sitting of both Houses.

REMEMBER Speaker: elected Lok Sabha member. Rajya Sabha Chairman: Vice-President, ex officio.