

Not corrected. See India Code, Vol. VI A, Pt. VI, P. 157.

THE TWO-MEMBER CONSTITUENCIES (ABOLITION)
ACT, 1961

No. 1 OF 1961

[9th March, 1961]

An Act to provide for the abolition of two-member parliamentary and assembly constituencies and for the creation of single-member constituencies in their place.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Twelfth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. This Act may be called the Two-Member Constituencies (Abolition) Act, 1961. Short title.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,— Definitions.

(a) "Commission" means the Election Commission appointed by the President under article 324 of the Constitution;

(b) "Delimitation Order" means the Delimitation of Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies Order, 1956;

(c) "sitting member" means a person who, immediately before the date of publication of a notification under clause (c) of section 4 in the Official Gazette of the State concerned, is a member of the House of the People from that State or, as the case may be, of the Legislative Assembly of that State;

(d) "State" includes a Union territory;

(e) "two-member constituency" means a two-member parliamentary constituency specified in the First Schedule, or a two-member assembly constituency specified in the Second Schedule, to the Delimitation Order.

3. The Commission shall, as soon as may be practicable and in the manner herein provided, divide every two-member constituency (other than a two-member assembly constituency in the State of Gujarat) into two single-member constituencies, delimit their extent and decide in which of them the seat shall be reserved for the Division of two-member constituencies.

scheduled castes or, as the case may be, for the scheduled tribes, having regard to the following provisions, namely:—

(a) all the single-member constituencies shall, as far as practicable, be geographically compact areas and in delimiting them regard shall be had to physical features, existing boundaries of administrative units, facilities of communication and public convenience; and

(b) the seat shall be reserved in that single-member constituency which in the opinion of the Commission has the greater concentration of population of the scheduled castes or, as the case may be, of the scheduled tribes.

Explanation.—In this section, “population” means the population as ascertained at the census held in 1951.

Manner of
division.

4. The Commission shall, as respects each State,—

(a) formulate its proposals in regard to the matters mentioned in section 3 and publish them in the Gazette of India, in the Official Gazette of the State and in such newspapers in the regional languages of the State as are considered important by the Commission, together with a notice inviting objections and suggestions in relation to the proposals and specifying a date on or after which the proposals will be further considered by it;

(b) after considering all objections and suggestions which may have been received by it before the date so specified, determine the matters referred to in section 3; and

(c) direct, by notification published in the Official Gazette of the State and in the Gazette of India, such amendments to be made in the Delimitation Order as appear to it to be necessary for giving effect to its decisions.

Effect of
division.

5. As from the date of publication of a notification under clause (c) of section 4 in the Official Gazette of the State concerned,—

(a) every two-member constituency in the State (other than a two-member assembly constituency in the State of Gujarat) shall cease to exist and, in lieu thereof, there shall come into existence two single-member constituencies (hereinafter referred to as “the corresponding new constituencies”) as provided in the amended Delimitation Order;

(b) the sitting member of any two-member constituency in the State elected to fill the reserved seat therein shall be deemed to have been elected to the House of the People or, as the case may be, to the State Legislative Assembly from that one of the corresponding new constituencies in which the seat has been reserved, and the other sitting member of that two-member con-

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stituency shall be deemed to have been elected from the other of the corresponding new constituencies; and

(c) any casual vacancy existing immediately before the said date in any two-member constituency in the State shall, if it be in the reserved seat, be deemed to be a casual vacancy in that one of the corresponding new constituencies in which the seat has been reserved, and if it be in the other seat, be deemed to be a casual vacancy in the other of the corresponding new constituencies.

6. In section 19 of the Bombay Reorganisation Act, 1960,—

(a) in sub-section (2), for clause (b), the following clause shall be substituted, namely:—

“(b) the assembly constituencies into which the State shall be divided, the extent of each of such constituencies and in which of them seats shall be reserved for the scheduled castes or for the scheduled tribes; and”;

(b) for sub-section (3), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely:—

“(3) In determining the matters referred to in clauses (b) and (c) of sub-section (2), the Election Commission shall have regard to the following provisions, namely:—

(a) all the constituencies shall be single-member constituencies;

(b) all the constituencies shall, as far as practicable, be geographically compact areas and in delimiting them regard shall be had to physical features, existing boundaries of administrative units, facilities of communication and public convenience; and

(c) constituencies in which seats are reserved either for the scheduled castes or for the scheduled tribes shall, as far as practicable, be located in the areas in which the population of the scheduled castes or, as the case may be, of the scheduled tribes is most concentrated, but in regard to scheduled castes, care should be taken to distribute the reserved seats in different areas of the State.”.

11 of 1966. 7. (1) After all the notifications have been published under clause (c) of section 4 and the order referred to in sub-section (5) of section 19 of the Bombay Reorganisation Act, 1960, has been made, the Commission shall—

Special provision for Gujarat amendment of section 19 of Act 11 of 1960.
Revision of the Delimitation Order.

(a) make such further amendments in the Delimitation Order as appear to it to be necessary for bringing up-to-date the

description of the extent of all constituencies and for better arranging the order in which they are set out in the Schedules to the Delimitation Order; and

(b) send authenticated copies of the Delimitation Order as so amended and revised to the Central Government and to each of the State Governments.

(2) As soon as may be after the revised Delimitation Order is received by the Central Government or a State Government, it shall be laid before the House of the People or, as the case may be, before the Legislative Assembly of the State.

Power to
maintain
Delimitation
Order up-
to-date.

8. The Commission may from time to time, by notification published in the Gazette of India and in the Official Gazette of the State concerned,—

(a) correct any printing mistake in the revised Delimitation Order or any error arising therein from an inadvertent slip or omission, and

(b) where the boundaries or name of any district or any territorial division mentioned in a Schedule to the said Order are or is altered, make such amendments as appear to it to be necessary or expedient for bringing the Schedule up-to-date.