STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR WITHDRAWAL OF THE DELIMITATION BILL, 2026

(Bill No. 108 of 2026)

The Delimitation Bill, 2026 (Bill No. 108 of 2026) was introduced in Lok Sabha on the 16th April, 2026, along with the Constitution (One Hundred and Thirty-first Amendment) Bill, 2026 (Bill No. 107 of 2026) and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026 (Bill No. 109 of 2026), pursuant to the approval accorded by the Cabinet in its meeting held on the 8th April, 2026, for setting up a Delimitation Commission for the readjustment of the allocation of seats to the States and Union territories in the House of the People and Assembly constituencies and the division of each State into territorial constituencies.

2. The Constitution (One Hundred and Thirty-first Amendment) Bill, 2026 was taken up for consideration in Lok Sabha on the 16th and 17th April, 2026. However, the said Bill could not be passed by Lok Sabha on the 17th April, 2026, as it did not secure the special majority required under clause (2) of article 368 of the Constitution. Consequently, the Delimitation Bill, 2026 and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026, which were consequential to the said Constitution Amendment Bill, were not proceeded with after introduction, and the Delimitation Bill, 2026 continues to be pending in Lok Sabha.

3. During the discussions on the Constitution (One Hundred and Thirty-first Amendment) Bill, 2026, concerns were expressed regarding the possible impact of the proposed delimitation exercise on the representation of different States in the House of the People, particularly in view of the variations in population growth across the country. The Government has examined these issues with a view to ensuring that the constitutional framework for the next delimitation exercise is clear, balanced and capable of addressing the concerns raised while preserving the representative character.

4. With a view to giving immediate effect to the reservation of seats for women in the House of the People and the Legislative Assemblies, the Government has decided to bring a new Bill, namely, the Constitution (One Hundred and Thirty-second Amendment) Bill, 2026, with revised provisions, and a fresh Bill, namely, the Delimitation (Second) Bill, 2026, in conformity with the provisions of the said Constitution Amendment Bill. The Delimitation (Second) Bill, 2026 provides that, at the first delimitation undertaken upon the commencement of the Constitution (One Hundred and Thirty-second Amendment) Act, 2026, there shall be an increase of fifty per cent. in the number of seats allocated to each State and Union territory in the House of the People and in the total number of seats in the Legislative Assembly of each State and Union territory, over and above the number of seats existing immediately before its commencement. Such a uniform increase would enhance the overall representation of the people while maintaining the existing relative distribution of seats among the States.

5. The Delimitation (Second) Bill, 2026 substantially alters the provisions of the Delimitation Bill, 2026, inter alia, in the following respects, namely:—

(a) the long title has been revised so as to provide that the Bill is to give effect to the reservation of seats for women in the House of the People and the Legislative Assemblies of the States and Union territories, besides providing for the readjustment of the allocation of seats and the division of each State and Union territory into territorial constituencies;

(b) the Central Government shall constitute the Delimitation Commission as soon as may be after the commencement of the proposed legislation, instead of "from time to time";

(c) the definition of the expression "population" has been omitted and the expression "latest census figures" has been defined to mean the latest census figures published as on the date of the commencement of the proposed legislation;

(d) the duties of the Commission have been recast so as to provide that the allocation of seats in the House of the People and the total number of seats in the Legislative Assemblies shall be readjusted in accordance with the provisions of the proposed legislation, and the division into territorial constituencies shall be on the basis of the latest census figures;

(e) the seats reserved for women shall be allotted by rotation in such manner as the Delimitation Commission may deem fit; and

(f) a new provision has been made for an increase of fifty per cent. in the number of seats, for the purpose of giving immediate effect to the reservation of seats for women under article 334A of the Constitution.

6. Since the Delimitation Bill, 2026 is to be replaced by the Delimitation (Second) Bill, 2026, which substantially alters its provisions, it is proposed to withdraw the Delimitation Bill, 2026 pending in Lok Sabha, under clause (b) of rule 110 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

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Minister of State for Law and Justice
(Independent Charge)

New Delhi;
The 27th November, 2026.