

THE VICE PRESIDENT

Article 63 of the constitution provides for a Vice President. He is to be elected by an electoral college consisting of members of both the Houses of Parliament. The election will be by Secret Ballot on the basis of proportional representation by means of Single Transferable Vote.

Qualifications

- A Citizen of India and he must have 35 years of age.
- Must hold any office of profit under the Central Government/State Government.
- He must have the qualification for election as a member of the Council of States.

Term of Office

The Vice President shall hold office for a term of 5 years from the date on which he joins office. He could resign from his office, before the expiry of his term. He can also be removed from his office by a resolution passed by a majority of the Council of States. But the resolution should also be approved by the Lok Sabha.

Emoluments

As the Vice President, he is not eligible for any salary or allowances. But being the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, he is eligible for salary and allowances as fixed by Parliament from time to time. When the

Vice President acts as the President or discharges the functions of the President, he gets the salary and allowances of the President of India.

Powers and Functions of the Vice President

The Vice President is the ex-officio chairman of the Council of States. He presides over its meetings. He is to see that there is a perfect decorum in the House and all business in the House is conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Rule of Procedures and conduct of business. (As presiding officer of the House he has no right to vote). The members of the House can speak only with his permission. When the office of the President falls vacant, the Vice President act as the President. However the constitution prescribes that such a vacancy should be filled in with in a period of six months. If he is elected as the President, he shall enjoy a full term of 5 years. The Vice President may also visit foreign countries on a good will mission or an invitation from foreign governments or for cultural exchange programmes. During these visits he neither speaks for the government nor participates directly or indirectly in the affairs of the government.

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