

State of Assam

The Election Commission of India is entrusted with the responsibility of delimiting the Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies in the State of Assam under Section 8-A of the Representation of the People Act, 1950. According to the Section 8-A (4) of Representation of the People Act, 1950, subject to the provisions of sub-section (1), the Election Commission shall, having regard to the provisions of the Constitution and the principles specified in clauses(c) and (d) of sub-section (1) of Section 9 of the Delimitation Act, 2002 (33 of 2002) determine the parliamentary and assembly constituencies in the State of Assam in which seats shall be reserved, if any, for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. As laid down in Article 170 and Article 82 respectively of the Constitution of India, the number of seats in the Legislative Assembly of each State and the allocation of seats in the House of the people to the States shall not be altered until the relevant figures for the first census taken after year 2026 have been published, hence the number of seats in the Legislative Assembly in the State of Assam shall remain as 126 and number of seats allocated in the House of People for the State of Assam shall remain as 14. Reservation of constituencies for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been done on the basis of the provisions laid down in Article 330 and 332 of the Constitution of India and on the basis of proportion of the population of SCs and STs to the total population and where their population is largest in number. Procedure for the delimitation process has been followed as laid down in the relevant laws viz. Section 8A of the R. P. Act, 1950 read with Section 9 (1) (c) and (d) of the Delimitation Act, 2002 (33 of 2002), Article 82, 170, 330 and 332 of the Constitution of India. All Assembly and Parliamentary Constituencies in the State are to be delimited on the basis of the 2001 Census. The census figures of 2001, as published by the Census Commissioner have thus alone been taken into account for this purpose. Further, efforts have been made to keep all constituencies, as far as practicable, as geographically compact areas, and in delimiting them, regard has been had to the physical features, density of population, existing boundaries of administrative units, facilities of communication and public convenience. Due to huge inter-district variation in certain cases in terms of factors such as geographical features, density of population, means of communication, public convenience, contiguity of the areas and necessity to avoid breaking of administrative units and as constituencies cannot be delimited having exactly equal population in all cases, deviation to certain extent from the State and District average has been allowed.

The Election Commission undertook visit to the State of Assam from 26.03.2023 to 28.03.2023 and held personal interactions with Political Parties, civil societies, public representatives, members of public, social organizations and officers of Administration in the State. In the State of Assam, since last delimitation (1976), number of districts have increased from 10 to 31 and similarly number of administrative units at Development Block and Gram Panchayat levels have undergone

drastic changes. A number of representations were also received by the Commission pointing out the uneven population growth pattern in the State of Assam. While some districts have undergone more population growth since last delimitation and some districts have witnessed less population growth. It is seen that the population density in the districts of the State varies from 38 persons per square km in Dima Hasao district to 1096 persons per square km in Kamrup (Metropolitan) district. Taking all these factors into account, the Commission has categorized all 31 districts in three broad categories A, B and C giving margin of (+/-) 10% of average population per Assembly Constituency (AC), while proposing allocation of the constituencies to the districts.

The average population density of the state is 338 persons per sq.km. A population density range of 304 (subtracting 10% from the average population density) to 372 (adding 10% to the average population density) has been established and on this basis, the above said three categories have been made as given below:

A- Districts having population density less than 304 persons per sq. km.

B- Districts having population density between 304 to 372 persons per sq. km.

C- Districts having population density more than 372 persons per sq. km.

While allocating seats to the districts, the fraction of equal to or greater than 0.5 has been treated as 1(one) and fraction of less than 0.5 has been treated 0(Zero). On this basis, 122 Assembly seats are allotted to the districts. 04 Assembly seats were left out from allocation while adopting this criterion and to allot these 04 seats, districts having fraction in the range 0.25- 0.49 were sorted out and out of such 10 districts, 04 districts having the largest geographical area were allocated one seat each i.e., Cachar, Kokrajhar, West Karbi Anglong and Udalguri.

19 (Nineteen) seats in the Legislative Assembly are proposed to be allocated for Scheduled Tribes out of 126 seats, while 02 seats are proposed to be allocated for Scheduled Tribes out of 14 seats in House of People allocated to the State of Assam. Similarly, 09 (Nine) seats in the Legislative Assembly are proposed to be allocated for Scheduled Castes out of 126 seats, while 01 seat is proposed to be allocated for Scheduled Castes out of 14 seats in House of People allocated to the State of Assam.