

WIDE POWERS FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Relevant for: Indian Polity | Topic: Indian Constitution - Features & Significant Provisions related to The Preamble, Union & its Territories and The Citizenship

The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill of 2019, passed by the Rajya Sabha on Monday, means that the new Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir would be administered/governed like Puducherry.

The Bill proposes wide powers to the Lieutenant-Governor of the proposed Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and makes it the “duty” of the Chief Minister to “communicate” all administrative decisions and proposals for legislation to the L-G.

Moreover, all Central and State laws of J&K would apply to the new Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh. Assets and liabilities of J&K and Ladakh would be apportioned on the recommendation of a Central Committee within a year.

Employees of State public sector undertakings and autonomous bodies would continue in their posts for another year until their allocations are determined.

The police and public order are to be with the Centre.

The tabling of the proposed Reorganisation Bill is also proof that the long reign of the 1954 order has ended. The 1954 order had introduced a proviso to Article 3, namely that “no Bill providing for increasing or diminishing the area of the State of Jammu and Kashmir or altering the name or boundary of that State shall be introduced in Parliament without the consent of the Legislature of that State.”

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