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President of India

The President of India is the head of nation. He is elected by Electoral College consisting of elected members of both the houses of parliament and elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of the States.

For the election of the President the Constitution of India provides the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote. The Constitution also provides for weighting of votes in the election of the President based on two fundamental principles. First, to secure as far as possible, uniformity in the scale of representation of different States of the Union, which emphasizes the similarity in the status of the States of the Union? Second, to secure parity between the States as a whole and the Union, in order to work up the idea of federal compact. For the purpose of securing such uniformity and parity the following method is laid down. This method makes the Presidential election complicated.

In order to secure uniformity in the scale of representation of the different States it is provided that every elected member of the Legislative Assembly (Vidhan Sabha) of a State has to cast as many votes as there are multiples of one thousand in the quotient obtained by dividing the population of the State by the total number of elected members of the Assembly, and if, after taking the said multiples of one thousand, the remainder is not less than five hundred, the votes of each member referred to above are further increased by one. To put it in simpler words, each member of the electoral college who is a member of a State Legislative Assembly will have a number of votes calculated as follows:

P = Total Population of the State
L = Total number of elected members in the Legislative Assembly of the state
Votes per member of state Legislature (V) = P / (L x 1000)…….. (Fractions exceeding one half being counted as one)

The following illustration explains the method of calculation:

The population of the state Rajasthan is 420,32,890 and the total number of elected members of the Legislature of Rajasthan is 200. Now applying the aforesaid process, if we divide 420,32,890 (i.e. the population) by 200 (i.e. the total number of elected members), the quotient is 210164.4500. Therefore, the number of votes which each member of the Rajasthan Legislature would be entitled to cast is 210164.4500/1000 i.e. 210.

Each elected member of either House of Parliament shall have such number of votes as may be obtained by dividing the total number of votes assigned to the members of the Legislative Assemblies of the States by the total number of the elected members of both Houses of Parliament, fractions exceeding one-half being counted as one and other fractions being disregarded.

To decide on number of votes for a member of parliament, the total number of votes assigned to the elected members of the State Assemblies is divided by the total number of elected members of both Houses of the Parliament (fractions exceeding one-half being counted as one).

Reference:

Press Information Bureau, Government of India, http://pib.nic.in/archieve/others/pr.html