

Seventeenth Lok Sabha

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Title: Issue regarding police reforms in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

**SHRI KESINENI SRINIVAS (VIJAYAWADA):** Hon. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I raise a significant issue of police reforms in the State of Andhra Pradesh. The state of functioning and welfare of the State Police Force is depressing when you look at the realities on the ground. The toll it is having on the law and order situation in the State is visible for all of us to witness, be it the drug menace or the increasing goon violence.

Sir, according to the State of Policing in India Report, the police force is on duty for 16 hours on an average and only eighteen per cent of the police force in Andhra Pradesh work for eight hours a day, as stipulated by the Model Police Act. An appalling consequence of the over-burdening of the police force is that 78 per cent of the police personnel suffer from mental and physical health side-effects in the State. This is rather very alarming.

Sir, it is also pertinent to note that Andhra Pradesh has the highest ratio, among all States, of women population per woman police, at 7,500, not a statistic to be proud of. Based on research undertaken by the Bureau of Police Research and Development, women police constitute only six per cent of the actual strength of the police force in Andhra Pradesh. It is surprising given the fact that the State mandates a 33 per cent reservation for women in police force. The root of this and other problems are the large vacancies in the force and the lack of adequate modernization within it. At present, the vacancies stand at 14,000.

I urge the Government of Andhra Pradesh to look into this matter and make necessary course corrections on a priority basis. Also, I request the Central Government to initiate a consultation process with the States to help them reform and modernize their respective police forces.

Thank you.

**12.41 hrs**

(Shri Rajendra Agrawal *in the Chair*)