

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to amend the existing Maternity Benefit Act to ensure equal opportunity to every mother.

***SHRIMATI PRAMILA BISOYI (ASKA):** Respected Sir, the hon. Supreme Court had sought clarification from the Central Government regarding a petition challenging the constitutional validity of the Maternity Benefit Act. According to this Act a woman can get maternity benefit only if she legally adopts an infant who is less than three-months old. This particular law is discriminatory in nature as it affects not only the adopted child but also the orphaned and abandoned infants. A mother having an adopted child gets only 12 weeks of maternity leave while a regular mother gets 26 weeks of leave. This is unfair and highly discriminatory. Therefore, I urge upon the hon. Minister for Woman & Child Development to bring in necessary amendments to the existing Act to provide equal opportunity to every mother. Through you, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister.

माननीय सभापति: यही लोकतंत्र का सौंदर्य और उसकी ताकत है।

... (व्यवधान)