

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding enhancement of Women representation in Judiciary-laid.

**KUMARI GODDETI MADHAVI (ARAKU):** Even after more than 75 years of independence, the representation of women in the judiciary is dismal. Women judges make up just 12% of the pool of sitting judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts (81 out of 677). Lower courts have a better showing, at 27% as per a Vidhi Legal report, this is nowhere near what would be considered ideal. Despite efforts, women are being excluded from positions of power in the judiciary. Gender continues to be an identity that puts women at a serious disadvantage. While I agree that women are not a homogenous group and are divided along caste and class lines, it is undeniable that all women are negatively impacted by the patriarchal system.

The government of Andhra Pradesh fully supports the empowerment of women and already has reservation in place for women in public employment, including 50% reservation for women in all nominated positions. Representation of women via reservation in the judiciary will ensure that the institution which protects the right to justice of all citizens is also internally just. I thus request that the government bring forth necessary legislation for the same.