

**Seventeenth Loksabha**

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**Title: Regarding Skilling of Women Construction Workers- Laid.**

**SHRI P. RAVINDHRANATH (THENI):** The construction sector has the largest number of unorganised labourers in India next only to the agricultural sector. Women form half of its workforce. Women join as Chitals or unskilled workers and remain unskilled throughout their working life span. However, men get training and systematically upgrade their construction skills. Studies reveal that informal women workers in India's construction sector earn 30-40 per cent less than their male counterparts. Women have the same potential like men to do masonry work. But Chitals are denied promotional opportunities in the construction sector. It is my submission to the Government that women construction workers be equipped with market-relevant skills to bridge the learning-to-livelihood gap and the gender pay-gap especially through the institutions like the Skill India Mission. Necessary legislation may be enacted to make it mandatory for the contractors to offer informal training to women construction workers in Government sites and employ certain percentage of women masons in all sites. I also urge that an institutional mechanism be established by Government for skill formation, and upskilling of women construction workers. These positive steps will enhance the resource potential among women construction workers and empower them leading to the growth of families and the advancement of our nation.

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