

>

Title : Need to introduce Women's Reservation Bill in Parliament.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (NALGONDA): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this House that several hundreds of women from all over the country are sitting in a *dharna* at Jantar Mantar under the banner of National Federation of Indian Women for the last four days. They are demanding one-third reservation for women. Everyday women are coming from various States. It is a demand that is accepted by everybody but never becomes an Act. For the last one decade, we are again and again discussing this issue and assurances are given.

Last year, Shri C.K. Chandrapan, our hon. Member, introduced a Private Member Resolution on this. There was a big discussion. Irrespective of Parties, more than 55 to 60 Members participated in it and supported the demand for one-

* Not Recorded.

third reservation for women. Even the Government agreed and it is a part of the Common Minimum Programme.

Everybody expected that soon this Bill will be introduced by the Government but there is no sign of any introduction of this Bill. It is a very big injustice. Women are angry and they are justifiably angry. Something has to be done. The Government should take it into consideration the necessity of bringing this Bill at the earliest.

The Beijing Declaration has asked for 33 per cent reservation. Even in countries like South Africa, women are having 40 per cent reservation in Parliament....(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What is your demand?

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY : This is a big demand. I would request that the Government should come out early. In the name of consensus, it should not be postponed for ever. There should be some sort of an end to this type of eternal debates. There are several Bills that are being introduced in our Parliament even without a consensus. Even with a simple majority, it is possible to bring it. Though a Constitution Amendment that is needed with two-thirds majority, I am sure all the major political parties will support it. Let us take into consideration the justifiable demand of the women who are fighting under the banner of National Federation of Indian Women.