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Title : Women Reservation Bill.

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK (KENDRAPARA): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the urgent need for 33 per cent reservation of seats for women in the Parliament. Even after 60 years of Independence, adequate representation of women in the Indian Parliament is still a dream. The House may be aware that 10 years ago, the Deve Gowda Government brought a Bill seeking 33 per cent reservation of seats for women in Parliament. Later a Joint Committee of Parliament was formed and a consensus Bill emerged from there. The Bill was there even during the Gujral Government. It was introduced in the Lok Sabha by the Vajpayee Government during 1998 for the second time. After the dissolution of the Lok Sabha, it was again introduced in the Lok Sabha in 1999.

However, it was painful to note that the Bill is still pending before the House. The present Lok Sabha has only eight per cent of representation of women. During 2004-06, the average representation of women in the State Legislative Assemblies is just 6.5 per cent. Therefore, it is evident that till a Constitutional mandate is emerged in the Parliament, the democratic right of women will continue to suffer. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to bring a Bill seeking 33 per cent reservation of seats for women in the Parliament and in the State Legislative Assemblies and get the same passed during the current Session itself. Thank you.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Sir, we all associate with this. The matter has not even come in the agenda.

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (MAVELIKARA): Sir, I also associate with this matter.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (TRICHUR): I am also associating with this.

SHRI P. MOHAN (MADURAI): I am also associating with this matter.