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Title: Need to convert P.G. Centre at Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh into Women University.

SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI (VIZIANAGARAM): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to raise an urgent matter of public importance.

It was announced that 20 new universities exclusively for women will be formed by the University Grants Commission in the 12th Five Year Plan. I welcome the announcement made by the UPA Government. Consequently, this will give an opportunity to the women to participate in the higher education in the country.

In this connection, I would like to mention that Andhra University, Visakhapatnam had set up a Postgraduate Centre at Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh in 2004 with three courses, namely, Master of Computer Applications, Master of Business Administration and MA (Education) on a land of 100 acres, with a constructed space of 20,000 square feet with sufficient infrastructure like buildings, library, etc. However due to paucity of funds, non-induction of well qualified teaching faculty, etc. this Postgraduate Centre has been kept in a semi-finished condition. The Andhra University is not able to develop it further.

The UGC has said that certain sections of the country's population are still not open to the idea of sending girls to co-educational institutions, which is depriving the girls of the benefits of higher education for their empowerment. As far as Vizianagaram district is concerned, the district survey report says that non-literates, of more than 15 years, comes to 7,39,532. In this, female non-literate share is 4,14,059. In this connection, the Central Government has classified Vizianagaram district as one of the 'Low Female Literacy' districts in the country.

In view of this scenario, through you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, I urge upon the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development to convert the P.G. Centre into a Women University, as has been done in the case of P.G. Centre of Andhra University at Srikakulam, by naming it as Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University during the Eleventh Five Year Plan.