

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding Women's Reservation Bill.

SHRIMATI P.K. SHREEMATHI TEACHER : Hon. Madam Speaker, thank you so much for giving me an opportunity to speak about an important subject, that is, on the Women's Reservation Bill.

Madam Speaker, it is with a sense of deep disappointment and sorrow that I bring to your attention yet again the easy-going attitude of the Government towards bringing the Women's Reservation Bill which provides 33.3 per cent reservation for women, in the agenda of our Lok Sabha. I would like to point out that the present Government had made promise to the women of our country in their election manifesto, expressing their commitment to the passage of this Bill.

Madam, promise is a promise. Promise should be fulfilled. It is not to be broken. It is now four years since it came to power with two-thirds majority. Though public statements of noble intentions for empowerment of women and girls have been made by the Ministers and the Party leadership quite frequently over the years, this has not reflected into action with regard to the Women's Reservation Bill, as a result, presence of women in the Lok Sabha, Parliament, remains at 11.7 per cent, and at the State Legislative Assemblies also, it shows a similar gender imbalance.

Women's rights, as per our Constitution, mainly include dignity and freedom from discrimination. Article 4 of the Constitution guarantees to all the Indian women equality. Article assures no discrimination. Article assures equality for opportunity. Where do we, the Indian women, get equal opportunities? Nowhere. Why? The Government has the responsibility to assure equal opportunities to the women. Do not deny the minimum rights of Indian women.

Madam, as the Speaker of the Sixteenth Lok Sabha, you have often spoken out in defence of women's rights, including their right to minimum representation in the highest decision-making bodies. Hence, I make an appeal for your intervention on this issue that has been pending, as you know, for over 20 years. I request you, hon. Madam, to interfere with the ruling Government and ensure that 33 per cent reservation giving Women's Reservation Bill, which has already gone through a long process of consultation at all levels, is brought to this Parliament and passed without any further delay before 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2019. Thank you....

*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Yes, you all will support it.

Shrimati Arpita Ghosh,

Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra,

Shri Mullappally Ramachandran,

Shri Rajeev Satav,

Shrimati Supriya Sule,

Shri Dhananjay Mahadik,

Dr. P.K. Biju,

Shri M.B. Rajesh,

Adv. Joice George,

Dr. A. Sampath,

Shri Md. Badaruddoza Khan,

Shri Sankar Prasad Datta,

Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena,

Shri N.K. Premachandran,

Shrimati V. Sathyabama,

Dr. J. Jayavardhan,

Shri P. Karunakaran and

Dr. Kulamani Samal are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shrimati P.K. Shreemathi Teacher.