

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to introduce Women's Reservation Bill -laid.

SHRIMATI K. MARAGATHAM (KANCHEEPURAM): I wish to bring to the notice of the Government the need to provide reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies on top priority. The Constitution (One Hundred and Eighth Amendment) 2008 Bill, seeking to provide 33 percent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies was introduced in the Rajya Sabha in 6th May 2008. The Bill was referred to Standing Committees twice and was ultimately passed by the Rajya Sabha on 9th May 2010. However, it lapsed with the dissolution of 15th Lok Sabha in 2014. It is saddening that a long pending demand of such an important Bill has been pending for over ten years. The enactment of the 73 and 74th Constitutional amendments has facilitated the entry of lakhs of women in villages, small towns and cities, into the political arena. It is an irony that women are still struggling to secure the same in Parliament. Our late lamented leader Dr Puratchi Thalaivi Amma got two bills, amending Municipal and Panchayat laws to increase the percentage of reservation for women from 33 to 50, passed in 2016. I appeal to the Government to introduce the Women's Reservation Bill in Parliament without further delay.