

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Need for the government to initiate Legislative measures to overcome the decision of the Supreme Court regarding the Sabarimala issue.

SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMTHITTA): Sir, I am raising a very important issue. I would request the Government to initiate legislative measures to overcome the recent judgment of the hon. Supreme Court on the entry of women between the ages of 10 and 50 years into Sabarimala Ayyappa Temple in Kerala. The hon. Supreme Court, on 28th September, 2018 ruled that women of all ages have the right to enter to the Sabarimala Shrine.

This judgment is against the customs and traditions that have been observed by the devotees for a long time. Hence, this judgment has hurt not only the sentiments of the devotees but also all sections of the people in the country irrespective of their faith because Sabarimala pilgrimage is the best example of the practice of interfaith understanding and harmony. Moreover, pilgrimage is also the best example of eco-spirituality.

The Sabarimala Shrine is one of the largest pilgrim centres on account of the number of devotees.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right.

SHRI ANTO ANTONY : Every year, more than five crores of devotees from all over the world pay pilgrimage to Sabarimala.

However, the verdict and the subsequent developments have seriously affected the pilgrimage.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have given you enough time. All your party Members are speaking. Please cooperate.

SHRI ANTO ANTONY : Sir, as a result, the overwhelming majority of devotees could not pay their annual pilgrimage during the last season.

I would request the Government to respond and think positively on this Sabarimala issue. I would urge the Government to initiate legislative measures to overcome the decision of the Supreme Court of India. Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri P.R. Sundaram is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Anto Antony.