

Seventeenth Lok Sabha

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Title: Request the government to add more female members with Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children Youth and Sports.

**SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL (JAYNAGAR):** Sir, a landmark Bill has been brought which proposes to raise the marriageable age of women in the country, but it is being left to a Committee of 30 male MPs and only one woman MP. Nothing can be more unfair than this. The domination of male Members on the Committee reflects the patriarchal principle on which the Indian society is based. The future of crores of girls will be decided by a Parliamentary Committee which has only one woman! Since the Bill has been referred to the Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports, which is a Rajya Sabha administered Committee, hon. Chairman is empowered to invite additional members.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON :** Madam, this is a matter which falls under the jurisdiction of hon. Speaker.

**SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL:** Sir, this is my request.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please listen. This is the decision of the Chairman. So, please avoid this observation.

**SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL:** Sir, I would like to request the hon. Speaker through you, since he is not in the chair.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** You can very well meet the hon. Speaker and make the submission. You are indirectly questioning the authority of the

hon. Speaker in constituting a committee. You can very well meet the hon. Speaker. And it is under the consideration of the Speaker.

**SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR):** Mr. Chairman, she is not questioning, she is simply suggesting, she is urging for it.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** That is why I said that the matter which she has raised is under the consideration of the hon. Speaker. So, please keep it in abeyance. Let us close that issue with that.

... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Very well! You can speak on the subject of age.

**SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL:** Sir, I will write a letter to the hon. Speaker. Just permit me to speak so that I can conclude my submission.

Sir, I would like to request the hon. Speaker through you to look into the matter directly because only a gender-balanced panel will make sure that the women have equal say in issues which affect them. Thank you.