

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1586

ANSWERED ON:02.12.2005

WOMEN RESERVATION BILL

McLeod Smt. Ingrid; Purandeswari Smt. Daggubati; Thakkar Smt. Jayaben B.

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to make special efforts to push through Women's Reservation Bill without further delay; and
- (b) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ)

(a) and (b): The Government proposes to bring in a Women's Reservation Bill on the basis of agreed provisions. With the objective of evolving a consensus on Women's Reservation Bill, the Chairperson of the United Progressive Alliance convened a meeting on 22nd August, 2005 in which the constituents of the United Progressive Alliance and Left Parties participated. Subsequently, the Prime Minister held a meeting with the leaders of the National Democratic Alliance and other leaders on 24th August, 2005. Three proposals relating to Women Reservation Bill were considered. One was to re-introduce the lapsed Bill providing one-third reservation of seats for women. The second was to increase the strength of the Legislatures and provide one-third of the original number of seats to women. The third was to implement the proposal of the Election Commission of India which is commonly known as the Gill formula to make it mandatory for the recognized political parties to ensure putting of minimum agreed percentage for women in State Assembly and Parliamentary elections so as to allow them to retain the recognition with the Election Commission as political parties. As no consensus could be arrived at, it was not possible for the Government to introduce a fresh Bill in Parliament. The Government is making all out efforts to seek a consensus on the provisions so that a Bill could be brought before Parliament at the earliest.