

**Title:** Regarding inordinate delay in passing the Women's Reservation Bill.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (BADAGARA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise an important matter, that is, the women's reservation in Parliament and State Legislatures, in the House. This subject is not only agitating the minds of all women but also all right-thinking men all over the nation. ...(*Interruptions*) It finds no place in the List of Business expected to be taken during this Session. Our hon. President in his Address to the Joint Session of Parliament, soon after the formation of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha, assured the nation that the Government proposes to reserve 33 per cent of the seats in Parliament and State Legislatures for women. ...(*Interruptions*) It is now nine months since the assurance is given, nothing has happened. Not only that, in the beginning of next year, State Assembly Elections are going to be held in States like Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Kerala. There, the women will be denied the opportunity. ...(*Interruptions*) In the name of consensus, there is inordinate delay and unconstitutional functioning. Normally, Parliamentary procedures are bypassed. This is nothing short of double standard and hypocrisy. ...(*Interruptions*) In other important Bills like the Insurance Regulatory Development Act, no consensus was taken.

Now, what is the position of the Women's Reservation Bill? I appeal to the Government to take up the matter immediately in this Session. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing to you to go to your seats. There are other Members also to speak.

...(*Interruptions*)