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Title : Need to make it mandatory for every eligible person to vote in General Elections.

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (DINDIGUL): Our nation has the pride as the biggest democratic Republic country with the largest voting population in the world. So far there were about 14 general elections to the Lok Sabha and many elections to the state assemblies during the last half century.

It is distressing to note that only an average of 59.58% of voters have voted in various general elections to Lok Sabha and in 2004 elections only 57.14% of voters have exercised their franchise. Hence, it is evident that more than 40% of the total voters mostly from educated circle have wantonly not turned out to vote and exercise their rudimentary right and duty to elect representatives. The result is the non voters rights is grappled by undesirable elements. Therefore, they create false and bogus voters in the name of those who fail to discharge their constitutional duty. A voter of this country has got an obligation to elect a right representative and for that purpose exercise his or her franchise.

The Representation of the Peoples Act of 1951, and the Constitution of India and our Founding Fathers have not provided any provision for the mandatory voting in the elections while the Constitution has not provided any sanction to those who do not exercise their franchises without any valid reason.

* Treated as laid on the Table

Now a time has come when we have to think of a remedy to this lapse and make voting right not only a full fledged right to exercise. I, therefore, urge upon our Honourable Prime Minister and this August House to examine this situation arising out of non voting by certain citizens and bring amendments to the representation of Peoples Act and if necessary to adopt steps to amend the Constitution of India to take penal action against any citizen who does not vote without proper reason.