

**Sixteenth Lok Sabha**

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Title: Regarding judgement of Hon'ble Supreme Court on Sabarimala Shrine - Laid

SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMTHITTA): I request the Government to kindly initiate legislative measures to overcome the recent judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, which permits the entry of women of all ages into Sabarimala Shrine in Kerala. This judgment is against the customs and traditions that have been observed by the devotees for a longtime. Even though Hon'ble Court's verdict was for espousing gender equality, overwhelming majority of the protesters against the verdict are women, the customs at Sabarimala are a matter of faith instead of a gender issue. The pilgrimage season has already commenced at Sabarimala. The move to break the customs adversely affects the pilgrimage, being performed by five crores of devotees every year. Article 26 of the Constitution endorses the right of every religious denomination to manage its own affairs. Being the Parliamentarian representing Sabarimala region in this august House, I request the Government to take urgent steps on this matter.