

# RAJYA SABHA

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## \*SUPPLEMENT

### TO

## SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

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(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

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Tuesday, March 9, 2010/Phalgun 18, 1931(Saka)

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### **THE CONSTITUTION (ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTH AMENDMENT) BILL, 2008 – *Contd.***

**SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:** Whatever we have seen in the House in last two days, is very regrettable. It is a matter of joy that women are being empowered. Our representation was 50 and 55 in the House, today we have come down to 27. How long will we remain as voting machine? If the recommendation of Gill Commission was accepted, 33 per cent reservation would have been made, but this was not done. We support this Bill, but out of 33 per cent reservation, 20 to 25 per cent reservation should be made for Muslims, Backwards and Dalit.

**SHRI ABANI ROY:** I support this Bill. This Women Reservation Bill was brought at the tenure of United Front Government. The credit for this Bill cannot be taken by any single party. Why were efforts not made for passing this Bill yesterday? Today's incident is not good for this House. Before introducing this Bill in the House, the House should have been taken into confidence.

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**\*This Synopsis is not an authoritative record of the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha.**

With the empowerment of women, they should also be given respect in the whole country.

**SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE:** We hope that adequate representation to minorities, especially the Muslims and the backward communities will be given.

If the trend of reservation continues, the male Members will be in minority in the House. Then another Bill reserving 33 per cent seats for males, will be introduced in the House after ten years. In West Bengal, Muslims are 25 per cent of the total population. They will also need proper representation in the State. In my State Kerala, they will also need adequate representation in future.

**SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI :** I express my gratitude to the Congress and the BJP for supporting the Bill since the beginning. I am sorry that there is no representation of women in Lok Sabha from my State Jharkhand. Since the time when Jharkhand has got Statehood, no Panchayat elections have been conducted there. In this respect, efforts should be made.

**MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY :** I am grateful to the Government for introducing the Women Reservation Bill so as to empower the women and give them equal status in respect of economic and social fields. My party BJP has made strenuous efforts to implement the female reservation since 1996. I am sure that had the Congress been in Opposition, they would not have extended it their support. It is a historic day when a long-pending demand is in the process of being fulfilled. For this, I will also congratulate Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. I have a demand that a female Prime Minister should succeed a male Prime Minister alternately. I am thankful to the male Members who showed their oneness on the issue of conferring some rights upon the women.

**THE PRIME MINISTER (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH), intervening in the discussion, said :** I express my deep sorrow over some abnormal developments that took place in this House in the last two days. We can streamline our functioning to avoid such

occurrences in future. I will, however, say that the health of Indian democracy is sound because unanimity has been displayed in respect of the Bill.

I congratulate all political parties whose cooperation has made it possible for us to enact a truly historic legislation of empowering our women. We have also to recognize that despite various efforts made in the Independent India for social and economic development, our women have faced enormous difficulties. Our women have faced discrimination at home. The Bill that is going to pass today is a historic step in strengthening the process of emancipation of India's womanhood. Some Members have expressed some reservations also. Government is committed to work sincerely for the empowerment of our minority communities. The process has already begun. This Bill is not against anyone.

**THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY), replying to the discussion, said:** Today is a historical day because all of us are paying our debt to our mother. The necessity of such a legislation is all the more, today, when the percentage of women in this world's largest democracy has not exceeded 11.25 per cent. In fact, the world average itself is 19 per cent, even the Asian average is 18.9 per cent. Today, the time has come to act boldly and with a vision.

I must congratulate all the hon. Members, irrespective of Parties, who have rendered whole-hearted support. There are some misgivings which have been expressed both inside the House and also outside the House. After passing of this Constitutional amendment, a law will be passed by the Parliament, which will look into the determination of seats and also decision on quotas, so that some of the concerns expressed today, can, definitely, be addressed. I commend this Bill for consideration and passing by this House.

*The motion for consideration of the Constitution (One Hundred and Eighth (Amendment) Bill, 2008 was adopted by a majority of the total membership of the House and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the Members present and voting.*

*The Clauses etc. were adopted by a majority of the total membership of the House and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting.*

*The Bill was passed by a majority of the total membership of the House and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the Members present and voting.*

**V.K. AGNIHOTRI,**  
*Secretary-General.*

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