

Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023

**'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023
will take the country to new heights'**



Foreword: Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, National President, BJP



BJP PUBLICATION DEPARTMENT



Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, National President, BJP

I would like to express my gratitude to our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, who has made an effort to bring the issue of women's education and the long-standing topic of women's reservation to a decisive juncture through the 'Nari Shakti Vandana Adhiniyam, 2023' (Women's Reservation Bill, 2023). While I congratulate him on this, I also want to thank him for his work in women's empowerment and development over the last nine years.

21 September, 2023

**‘Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam 2023,
will take the country to new heights’**



BJP PUBLICATION DEPARTMENT

6A, Deendayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi-110002

PREFACE

With the inauguration of the New Parliament Building, the 'special session' of Parliament became even more significant by passing the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam 2023'. The historic moment the country had been waiting for decades has arrived due to the strong political will power and dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. This is a revolutionary step to empower 'Nari Shakti', ensuring their rights, dignity, increasing participation, while accelerating the pace of socio-economic transformation in the country. Through the historic 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam 2023', today 33% participation of women in the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabhas of the country has been ensured.

There is no doubt that the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023' will not only increase the participation of women in nation-building process but will also bring about a comprehensive change in the political and socio-economic scenario of the country. Among the speeches given in Parliament during the discussion on this bill, we are publishing in this booklet the speeches by BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, Union Home and Cooperation Minister Shri Amit Shah, Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, and Union Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, who tabled this bill. Additionally, we are publishing the statement that the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi made in the Parliament on this historic occasion. We are glad that BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda has accepted our request to write the 'Forward' of this booklet. We are extremely grateful to him. We hope that our esteemed readers will find this booklet useful and will be able to understand the goals and objectives of this 'Adhiniyam'.

Publisher

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6A, Deendayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi-110002

FOREWORD

As the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023' becomes a reality, a new dawn descends on the nation. The bill, which makes provision for 33% women's reservation in the Lok Sabha, state legislatures, and NCT of Delhi, is set to change the course of Indian politics with a promising future in the 'Amrit Kaal'. The bill for 33% women's reservation had to wait for more than three decades amid opposition from various quarters on one pretext or another. It was the strong political will and determination of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi that led to the bill being passed by an overwhelming majority of 452-2 in the Lok Sabha, while in the Rajya Sabha it was passed unanimously. The 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam 2023' is truly a vehicle for Women-led development in the country, a call for their contribution to the process of national reconstruction, and a call for equality and inclusivity. There is no doubt that this crucial step in the 'Amrit Kaal' has strengthened our resolve for a developed India even more.

In the last 10 years, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been committed to bringing forward 'Nari Shakti' and ensuring their significant contribution to the country's development. Under his visionary leadership, the Central Government has taken many steps that have not only empowered the women in the country but also propelled the nation towards 'Women-led Development'. Various programmes and schemes aimed at making women's lives easier, improving their health, education, bringing economic prosperity, and addressing social issues are now reshaping the entire country.

While strict laws have been enacted on Triple Talaq, many legal provisions are now in place for stringent punishment in crimes against women. Due to the untiring efforts of the Modi government, there has been a substantial improvement in the country's sex ratio, and a considerable increase in girls' participation in higher secondary education. Even in higher educational institutions like IITs, girls' enrolment has risen from 8% to 20%. Maternal mortality has decreased by more than 25%, and the coverage of health plans

and insurance has increased by 46% for women aged 15 to 49 years. Initiatives like Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, and Swachh Bharat Yojana have significantly improved the status of women. Moreover, the benefits of many schemes have been directly extended to women to enhance their financial capability. Whether it is the matter of Jan Dhan bank accounts, Mudra Yojana, Stand-Up scheme, or Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana, 'Nari Shakti' in the country is gaining strength everyday. At the same time, the Modi government is determined to support initiatives like thousands of 'Drone Didis' while enabling three crore 'Lakhpati Didis' in the country.

The 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023' carries forward the rich tradition of the country, in which rishikas like Gargi, Lopamudra, and Maitreyi have been celebrated as seers since Vedic times. In our culture of worshipping Goddess as 'Shaktiswarupa', Maa Sita, Kunti, Gandhari, and Draupadi hold an eminent place in our tradition. Rani Prabhavati Gupta, Rani Padmini, Rani Durgavati, Rani Rudramadevi, and Rani Ahilyabai have set excellent examples in governance and administration.

'Nari Shakti' is today making its mark felt in every field from governance and administration to knowledge, science, army, and national and international sports competitions and entrepreneurship. It is the result of providing the right opportunities and encouragement to 'Nari Shakti' that they are not only winning medals for the country on the international stage but also playing a leading role in hoisting India's flag on the moon.

I am pleased that this booklet on the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023' is being published by BJP Publication Department. The selected speeches presented in the booklet will make readers aware of the background, purpose, and importance of the 'Adhiniyam' and its far-reaching transformative impact on the society. I congratulate the publication team for this commendable work.

Jagat Prakash Nadda

National President, BJP

March, 2024

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It will emerge as an unimaginable, unique force that will take the country to new heights: Narendra Modi

Addressing the special session of new Parliament House on 21 September, 2023 Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi described the passage of 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam' as a 'Golden Moment' in the history of Indian Parliament and credited all the MPs for its success :

Honourable Speaker, you have given me the opportunity and time to speak, and I am grateful to you. I just want to take a couple of minutes. Yesterday was a historic moment in the parliamentary journey of India. All the members of this house, from every party, leaders of all parties are deserving of this historic moment. Whether they are inside the house or outside, they are equally deserved. Therefore, through you today, in this very crucial decision and in filling the nation with new energy, This decision of yesterday and today after the Rajya Sabha, when we complete the final stage after today's session in the Rajya Sabha, will change the temperament of the motherland of the country, which will I feel that confidence will arise and it will emerge as an unimaginable, unique force that will take the country to new heights.

For the contribution, support and discussion that all of you have made in carrying out this sacred work, today as the leader of the House, I stand up today to respectfully greet all of you with all my heart and with a true heart and to thank you

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Our government, our Prime Minister, our culture and our mindset are all committed to elevating women to a higher position in society: Jagat Prakash Nadda

BJP National President Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda's address on 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam' in Rajya Sabha on 21 September, 2023

Madam, today I am going to express my views in support of the 'Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-eighth Amendment) Bill, 2023'. We all know that the construction of this new Parliament building started on the day of Ganesh Utsav, and yesterday this "Nari Shakti Vandan Bill" (Women's Reservation Bill) was passed smoothly in the Lok Sabha. Not only do I have hope, I have full confidence that today, here in the Rajya Sabha too, this 'Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-eighth Amendment) Bill, 2023' will be passed unanimously without any hindrance,

We all know that the construction of this new Parliament building started on the day of Ganesh Utsav, and yesterday this "Nari Shakti Vandan Bill" was passed smoothly in the Lok Sabha

without any obstruction, and it will get everyone's consent.

Gratitude to our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi

I would like to express my gratitude to our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, who has made an effort to bring the issue of women's education and the long-standing topic of women's reservation to a decisive juncture through the 'Nari Shakti Vandana Adhiniyam, 2023'. While I congratulate him on this, I also want to thank him for his work in women's empowerment and development over the last nine years. His actions to improve the status and future of Indian women in society have been very effective. The steps he has taken

are crucial, and among them, the 'Nari Shakti Vandana Adhiniyam' is another significant stride that will contribute to the empowerment of women and enhance their strength. The vocabulary of the 'Nari Shiksha Vandana Adhiniyam' itself reflects our government's, our Prime Minister's, and our society's perspective towards women and provides direction, showcasing our vision and commitment to observing and empowering women in education.

Women-led development

I would like to express here that certain perceptions have developed in the minds of many people. The notion has emerged that when we undertake initiatives for the benefit of women, it is often seen as an act of benevolence or charity. If we work towards the empowerment of women, it is sometimes perceived as if we are obliging them. I would like to clarify that in Indian culture, women have always held a significant position. This is not just our perspective; it is a testament to how our ancestors and our culture established women in society. The way women have been integrated into our culture indicates that their position has always been prominent. Terms like 'backward,' 'helpless,' or 'vulnerable woman' have never been part of our vocabulary. We have always seen women as embodiments of education, as goddesses, and as contributors to society.

The vocabulary of the 'Nari Shiksha Vandana Adhiniyam' itself reflects our government's, our Prime Minister's, and our society's perspective towards women and provides direction, showcasing our vision and commitment to observing and empowering women in education

Therefore, when Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji talks about 'women empowerment,' he consistently emphasises on 'women-led development.' He also told the world in G20 that it is not only women empowerment but women-led development. Our Prime Minister Modi ji has also done the work of propounding this vision of India and presenting it to the world through G20.

Place of women in Indian culture

When I talk about Indian culture, if we see the place of women in Indian culture, then she has always had a place in economic autonomy. There has been economic autonomy in her social life. From spirituality to teaching, women have made special contributions. If we talk about the Harappan period, the bronze statue of 'dancing girl' shows how much freedom and independence women had in our society. Despite passing through periods of slavery and the mediaeval era, during which the patriarchal system affected the status of women, Indian culture has always bestowed upon them the status of 'power,'

The enactment of the 'Nari Shakti Vandana Adhiniyam, 2023' indicates that our government, our Prime Minister, our culture, and our mindset are all committed to elevating women to a higher position in society

'goddess,' and seen them as bearers of 'knowledge.' Our vocabulary also reflects this, with phrases like 'Gauri-Shankar,' 'Girija-Shankar,' 'Bhavani-Shankar,' 'Sita-Ram,' 'Radhe-Krishna.' Explaining to the world the concept of 'ladies first' is not just a joke for us; it represents a deeper understanding rooted in our culture. Therefore, it is

essential to comprehend our culture.

In Vedic times as well, there was no shortage of scholars in our midst. Even during the earlier times, when there was a philosophical debate between Adi Shankaracharya and Mandan Mishra, you may know that Mandan Mishra's wife, Ubhaya Bharati, was the judge in that debate. This is something we should also keep in mind. Similarly, during the Yajur Veda period, women were given equal status. The enactment of the 'Nari Shakti Vandana Vidheyak' (Women's Reservation Bill, 2023) indicates that our government, our Prime Minister, our culture, and our mindset are all committed to elevating women to a higher position in society. They are dedicated to providing education and making women empowered, self-reliant, and self-sufficient.

Establishing Hindavi Swaraj

It has been said, and rightly so, that if a king is just, the queen should also be just – this notion reflects a remarkably progressive mindset, a point that should resonate with us. In the fourth century, the reign of Queen Prabhavati Gupta signifies the illustrious history of women in Indian history as she was the first woman to rule. Rani Jijabai, renowned as the Maratha Queen, guided and inspired Shivaji towards establishing Hindavi Swaraj, which is an important chapter to remember. Rani Ahilyabai Holkar's name is celebrated in the world of spirituality, and her construction of temples signifies the role of women in our social and spiritual lives. We cannot forget the role of Rani Lakshmbai in our 1857 revolution; her leadership remains etched in our memories. The statue of Rani Chennamma of Kittur adorned in our Parliament tells the story of India and its women. If we talk about Queen Abbakka of Karnataka, who fought against the Portuguese, her struggle also narrates how women have contributed to our development.

Whether it's in the fields of knowledge, science, military education, national security, or the economy, we are happy that today the women of our country have brought themselves into the lead role

I would also like to mention that even in modern times, if we look at today's era, the 21st century is the century of women. Whether it's in the fields of knowledge, science, military education, national security, or the economy, we are happy that today the women of our country have brought themselves into the lead role. They have established themselves and earned respect in prominent positions. It is not only their presence but also their position. The esteemed positions they have achieved reflect the way Indian women have contributed to various fields.

21% of women in the software world hold leading roles

Today, 21% of women in the software world hold leading roles. If we talk about ISRO today, about which Jairam Ramesh ji was discussing the day before yesterday, when we look at scientists involved in

missions such as Mangalyaan, Chandrayaan, or Aditya-L1, we see a significant contribution from female scientists. This is something we should also acknowledge. In this independent India, we have 16 women who have become Chief Ministers, and this too is worth noting.

Women were given an equal place in India

Many countries have seen a long struggle by women to obtain voting rights, a struggle that extended over centuries for some and even lasted a full century for others, just to secure the franchise. However, we were fortunate that in the first general election, women were given

In 1931, Sarojini Naidu wrote a letter to the British government, stating that women should have the right to vote. In that letter, she wrote a sentence - 'We don't want to be nominated but we want to be elected

an equal place, reflecting our progressive mindset. Everyone contributed to this achievement. In 1931, Sarojini Naidu wrote a letter to the British government, stating that women should have the right to vote. In that letter, she wrote a sentence - 'We don't want to be nominated but we want to be elected.'

If we look at it from every perspective, women have made a special contribution. It is also our good fortune that our country had a female president long before many other nations. Therefore, our perspective towards them has never been one of vulnerability or helplessness; we have always worked to uplift them by giving them a special place in society.

In our Constituent Assembly, there were 15 women

In our Constituent Assembly, there were also 15 women who made a special contribution to the formation of the constitution. Today, we have 102 women Members of Parliament who have been elected due to their education. This also indicates how women have contributed in various ways. Whether it is in politics, sports, the economy, aviation, or entrepreneurship, women have made their contributions in all these fields.

Therefore, when we advocate for the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Bill' as a means of empowering women, it's crucial to recognise that we are not extending a favour; instead, we are actively promoting and enhancing their participation. It is essential to keep this in mind as we work towards the enactment of this bill.

Our goal is to empower women in the true sense

Respected Chairman Sir, I want to be clear about one thing: the Bharatiya Janata Party has no intention of promoting itself or gaining political advantage; rather, our goal is to empower women in the true sense.



PM brought up the concept of “women-led development” in front of a global audience: Amit Shah

Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah’s address on ‘Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam’ in Lok Sabha
on 20 September, 2023

Honourable Speaker Sir, Yesterday marked a momentous occasion in the history of the Indian Parliament. It was Ganesh Chaturthi; it signified the advent of a new year in the Indian calendar, and it auspiciously inaugurated the proceedings of the new legislative session. Notably, after years of deliberation, the bill granting reservations and rights to women was successfully passed in this august house on the very same day.

Women-led development

I want to express heartfelt congratulations to the leader of this house and the Prime Minister of the country, Shri Narendra Modi, through you, for genuinely honouring the ‘Matri Shakti’, which is a part of the 1.4 billion population

I want to express heartfelt congratulations to the leader of this house and the Prime Minister of the country, Shri Narendra Modi, through you, for genuinely honouring the ‘Matri Shakti’, which is a part of the 1.4 billion population, in a real sense. In the G-20 summit, respected Narendra Bhai presented

this idea before the entire world. He brought up the concept of “women-led development” in front of a global audience. The auspicious commencement of a new era of women-led development is set to happen through this very legislation. Now, the mothers of this country, the ‘Matri Shakti’ itself, and the daughters of this nation will not just have their share in policy-making but will also secure their position in decision-making.

For some parties, women’s empowerment might be a political agenda; for some, it could be a political issue, and for others, it

might serve as a tool to win elections. But for my party and our leader, Shri Narendra Modi ji, women's empowerment is not a political issue. It's about equal rights for mothers and daughters.

Due to Modi ji's role one-third reservation for women was introduced

To gauge the significance of any principle or plan for any ideology, it cannot be attributed to just one event or one step. When Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was engaged in organisational work and served as the organisational secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Party in Gujarat, during an important executive meeting in Vadodara, it was due to Modi ji's role that a one-third reservation for women was introduced in organisational positions within the Bharatiya Janata Party. I can proudly say that my party, which undertakes such work, is not only the first party but also the last party to do so.

When Shri Modi Ji was the Chief Minister, he used to receive a lot of gifts from people, and memorable ones were kept in a treasury. At that time, Modi ji made a decision and publicly announced that whatever gifts were received, the proceeds from those would be used for the education of children. While he was the Chief Minister, the people of the country elected him as the Prime Minister. In 2014, after being declared the candidate for the Prime Minister's position, elections took place, and after thirty years, the great people of this country gave a mandate to form a government under Modi ji's leadership with a full majority. When the time came to form the government, Modi ji's resignation from the position of Chief Minister was a formal procedure. After resigning from the position of Chief Minister, he was eligible to become Prime Minister. When Modi ji resigned from the Chief

During an important executive meeting in Vadodara, it was due to Modi ji's role that a one-third reservation for women was introduced in organisational positions within the Bharatiya Janata Party

Minister's post, the entirety of the remaining funds from his Chief Ministerial salary and savings in his bank account were allocated for the education of the children of Gujarat government employees belonging to grades three and four.

‘Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao’

There was no circular or law for this. When Modi ji was the Chief Minister of Gujarat, he initiated the slogan ‘Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao’ across the country. Through his efforts in Gujarat, through public awareness, and without any legislation, he brought about a revolutionary change in the gender ratio, granting millions of daughters the right to education. In the scorching heat of May, from the Patwari Cell to the Chief Minister, the entire government would visit village after village for five days straight for girl child enrollment. There wasn't a corner where government officials wouldn't go. From village heads, members of district and tehsil councils, legislators, parliamentarians, ministers, and even the Chief Minister, everyone visited villages to encourage enrollment, reduce dropout rates, and ensure re-enrollment of

Congress Party, which left a legacy in Gujarat, had a dropout rate of 37% in primary education. When Modi ji transitioned from Chief Minister to Prime Minister, that 37% dropout rate decreased to 0.70%

children

The result of ‘Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao’ was twofold. On one hand, there was a remarkable change in gender ratio, and on the other hand, the Congress Party, which left a legacy in Gujarat, had a dropout rate of 37% in primary education. When Modi ji transitioned from Chief Minister to Prime Minister, that 37% dropout rate decreased to 0.70%.

That's why I say this isn't a political issue for us. It's about our mothers, families, and our society. Honourable Speaker Sir, when the government was formed under the leadership of Narendra Modi ji, they might claim that such initiatives had happened

before and measures were taken previously; I'll discuss all those points later. However, this issue of women's empowerment is not merely tied to constitutional amendments. Security, equality, and participation for women—these three aspects, from the day Modi ji took oath as the Prime Minister of this country, from the day the Bharatiya Janata Party formed the government, have become both the aim and direction of this government.

Modi ji initiated the 'Jan-Dhan Yojana'

There are many things that have occurred. Today, I want to emphasise that on the day Modi ji became the Prime Minister of this country, there were 70 crore people in this country who did not have a bank account. Modi ji initiated the 'Jan Dhan Yojana', a campaign to open bank accounts. 52 crore bank accounts were opened, and out of those, 70% were opened in the names of mothers.

This is an impactful change that plays a significant role in empowering the women of our country, as now, any funds allocated under government schemes are directly transferred to women's bank accounts.

Congress has governed this country for more than five decades. However, there were 11 crore families where there was no toilet. Despite the slogans of eradicating poverty, no arrangements were made for the poor

Congress has governed this country for more than five decades. However, there were 11 crore families where there was no toilet. Despite the slogans of eradicating poverty, no arrangements were made for the poor. When a home lacks a toilet, it causes the most distress to young daughters, sisters, and mothers. Only those who have young daughters at home without a toilet can understand the pain. There were 11 crore homes where there was no toilet.

Modiji initiated the work of providing water to 12 cr homes

There were 12 crore homes without access to drinking water. Those who live within society, those who understand the ground realities, know that when there is no drinking water in a home, who suffers the most and experiences the most pain? It's the mother of the house who suffers the most when there is no drinking water. Shri Narendra Modi initiated the work of providing water to homes through pipelines in 12 crore households. He started providing free medical treatment to 80 crore people and five kilograms

Our sages honoured women in the Rigveda through 422 hymns. The women who contributed to the composition of the Vedas—Gargi, Maitreyi, Ghosha, Vishwavara, and Lopamudra—all these mothers enriched the Vedas with empathy, caring for the welfare of all living beings

of free grains to every household. When the stove doesn't burn, children go hungry. The stove might not be burning, but it's the heart of the mother that burns.

26 weeks of maternity leave

Our leader, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has undertaken the

work of providing approximately 26 weeks of maternity leave and promoting maternity benefits. Honourable Member, what is empowerment? Today, across the world, only 5% of pilots flying aeroplanes are women; in India, it's 15%, and this has increased in the last 10 years. This is what we call empowerment.

Our government is committed to the empowerment of women. We have initiated several schemes and programs aimed at empowering women in education, healthcare, employment, and entrepreneurship. I believe that women in India will progress in every field and make significant contributions to the country's development.

Durga, Saraswati and Lakshmi are main goddesses

Anyone living in this country, rooted in India's heritage, cannot make the mistake of considering any woman as weak. Durga, Saraswati, and Lakshmi are the three main goddesses. Durga represents power, Saraswati symbolises knowledge, and Lakshmi embodies wealth and prosperity. Our ancestors, our culture, have embraced the mother in these three goddesses, not anyone else. However, those not connected to India may not fully grasp the power and contributions of women.

Over thousands of years, our cultural development and the history of our country have embraced many new dimensions and realms of knowledge.

Consider the hymns of the Vedas, the mantras of the Upanishads, and the verses of the Puranas. Our sages honoured women in the Rigveda through 422 hymns. The women who contributed to the composition of the Vedas—Gargi, Maitreyi,

In the realms of education and social service, Gargi, Maitreyi, Sulabha, Vadava, Pitrtheya, Arundhiti, and Savitribai Phule contributed to empowering society

Ghosha, Vishwavara, and Lopamudra—all these mothers enriched the Vedas with empathy, caring for the welfare of all living beings.

Aditi was highly revered in all four Vedas

In the ancient texts, Aditi is often referred to as the mother of Indra. Aditi was highly revered in all four Vedas, playing a significant role in completing them. Shifting to governance, in the 10th century, Queen Didda of Kashmir, Rudramadevi of the Kakatiya dynasty, Queen Durgavati in the 13th century, Jijabai, who shaped Shivaji, Rani Chennamma, Maharani Ahilyabai, and Maharani Lakshmi Bai are all remarkable women whose contributions to society and history are indelible."

In the realms of education and social service, Gargi, Maitreyi, Sulabha and Savitribai Phule contributed to empowering society.

We haven't come here with a bill just as an obligation; we've come with a sense of duty to rectify a distorted social system and bring a transformation to society. To enhance female participation and respect their contributions, we propose a 33% reservation.

While many have shared various opinions here, today I'd like to provide answers on certain matters. I want to clarify beforehand that nobody should take these responses personally. I don't intend to speak against any political party. There will be many occasions where a political response will be necessary, and I will provide it firmly and confidently. However, this is an opportunity where

This bill has come four times, yet it has failed to pass on all occasions. Each time, our assembly has let down our motherland. Today, I wish to call upon all parties, both ruling and opposition, to come together and initiate a new beginning

this assembly, not just the entire country, but through you, esteemed members, the entire world needs to convey the message that what Prime Minister Modi has pledged is a unanimous agreement of this assembly for women-led development.

This is the fifth attempt

This is the fifth attempt. This Women's Reservation Bill isn't new; this constitutional amendment isn't the first. So, what happened to those four previous constitutional amendments, and why did Modi Ji have to bring this up today? From Devagouda Ji to Manmohan Singh Ji, Atal Ji tried twice; there were four attempts, but why didn't it pass? What were the reasons behind it? Were the attempts incomplete? Was the intent incomplete, or did some people work in such a way that it couldn't progress? I will certainly address this.

First and foremost, this came as the 81st Constitutional Amendment Bill in the form of the Women's Reservation Bill on September 12, 1996, during Devagouda Ji's tenure. I won't mind if you want to attribute its success solely to the Congress Party. You can cast your vote, express your agreement, and automatically

you'll get your own vote. However, I want to convey the truth to the millions of mothers and sisters in this country. This bill was brought forth for the first time when Shri H.D. Deve Gowda was the Prime Minister.

After introducing the bill in the house, Geeta Mukherjee chaired a Joint Committee. The committee submitted its report on December 9, 1996. Unfortunately, the bill never reached this house. What happened afterward is unknown. When the 11th Lok Sabha was dissolved, the bill was considered lapsed under Article 107, and the bill expired there.

Then Atal Ji became the Prime Minister. On December 14, 1998, the 84th Constitutional Amendment Bill came, and along with the dissolution of the 12th Lok Sabha, this bill also lapsed. There were some allegations made as well. I don't want to discuss them in this house. The bill

The government is committed to providing reservations for women. It will take all necessary steps to implement reservations for women as soon as possible. I urge the House to pass this bill

was snatched from Advani Ji's hands. Unfortunately, the Women's Reservation Bill brought in 1996 never reached this house.

We must ensure the success of this bill

Today, in 2024, we are once again deliberating on the Women's Reservation Bill. We must ensure the success of this bill and empower women.

This bill has come four times, yet it has failed to pass on all occasions. Each time, our assembly has let down our motherland. Today, I wish to call upon all parties, both ruling and opposition, to come together and initiate a new beginning by interviewing the Constitution and providing reservation to our motherland.

I prefer not to engage in any political debate, but there have been several questions raised. Queries have been posed regarding our intentions and why immediate action hasn't been taken, why there's no Ombudsman, and why not in 2026? I wish

to address each of these questions one by one.

Reservations apply to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

The provision for reservations in the Constitution is under Article 330, and similarly, the provision for reservations in State Assemblies is under Article 332. Both of these reservations apply to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Several questions have been raised about why OBCs are not included, the delay in the Commission for Review, and many others.

The Review Commission is a legal provision that determines our country's electoral constituencies, appointed through a 'quasi-judicial decision.' Its appointments are made as per the orders of the Supreme Court

I'd like to address each of these questions. The first response is that the current constitution has three categories of Members of Parliament. One comes from the general category, which includes our OBC brothers and sisters. The second comes from the SC category, and the third from the ST category.

We have allocated 33% of the reservation to women

Currently, there are only three available categories. In these three categories, we have allocated 33% of the reservation to women. Now the question arises, why not make reservations for OBCs? The answer to this is that there is no constitutional provision for OBC reservation at the moment. To provide reservation for OBCs, an amendment to the constitution will be necessary. The government has formed a parliamentary committee to deliberate on the feasibility and possibilities of OBC reservations. After the committee submits its report, the government will decide on OBC reservation. As for the Review Commission, it is constituted every 10 years. The previous Review Commission was established in 2002, and the next one will be formed in 2022. Seat allocations for reservations will be determined after the Review Commission

is established. Hence, the determination of reservation seats cannot be made at the moment. The government is committed to providing reservations for women. It will take all necessary steps to implement reservations for women as soon as possible. I urge the House to pass this bill. This bill will be a historic step towards empowering women and achieving social justice.

As far as the question of why this was done, regarding the establishment of the Review Commission, its provisions, and the year 2026, I'll now address this directly. The recent constitutional amendment we've introduced, incorporates provisions for women's reservation through Article 330A and Article 332A. Shri Meghwal is the driving force behind this constitutional amendment, which aims to allocate one-third of the seats for women, specifically mothers, in addition to the existing reservations in all three categories—General, SC, and ST.

Let's now understand the Review Commission. The Review Commission is a legal provision that determines our country's electoral constituencies, appointed through a 'quasi-judicial decision.' Its appointments are made as per the orders of the Supreme Court. It includes a representative from the Election Commission within it. Additionally, there are representatives of 2-3 other members associated with electoral constituencies. Under its law, every respected political party also has one member each on that Review Commission.

Let the Review Commission decide

Now if we have to reserve a third of the seats, who will decide on those seats? Those who question 'why not?' - who will do it? Sir, can we do it? And if Wayanad becomes reserved, what will you do? Will you say it's done politically? Mr. Owaisi is not here. If Hyderabad becomes reserved, will they say it's politically motivated? Therefore, it's important that the Review Commission operates through a 'quasi-judicial decision.' It determines this transparently by going to every state and region, holding open hearings, and ensuring transparency. Let the Review Commission decide. The only and only question behind this is transparency; there should be no bias."

I just want to say that some people have started spreading misinformation on social media today. Though I'm glad, I've heard everyone; they've promised their support in their speeches. But some people are spreading confusion on social media, saying this bill shouldn't be supported because it involves the Review Commission and isn't related to the current elections. Some are saying it doesn't include OBC reservations or Muslim reservations, so don't support it, but I disagree. If you don't support it, will reservations come faster? Even then, it won't come before 2029. Show your support; it's guaranteed; the incoming government will also make changes. Just once, show your support, especially because today is 'Ganesh Chaturthi', the day this constitutional amendment bill has arrived.



We are committed to the economic, social empowerment of women: Nirmala Sitharaman

Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman participated in the discussion on 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam' in Rajya Sabha on 21 September, 2023. The following are the excerpts form her speech:

Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to talk on this very Historic Bill.

128th Amendment Bill

Sir, I speak in favour of, and this is an intervention that you permitted me, the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam. This proposed 128th Amendment Bill has actually been very thoughtfully crafted considering that we are at a very critical stage of our development process. We have seen the success and I certainly want to credit Shri P. V. Narasimaha Raoji's Government for having brought in the 33 per cent reservation in the Panchayati Raj at that time. As a result, we have seen the groundswell at the Panchayat level, where 33 per cent reservation today by many States has been increased to 50 per cent as well. About 20 States have already brought in 50 per cent reservation and showing, therefore, the contribution of women at the Panchayat level. Although it started with 33 per cent, now it has gone up to 50, there are no regrets and actually people are happy that there is actual participatory process which is seen on the ground.

Although it started with 33 per cent, now it has gone up to 50, there are no regrets and actually people are happy that there is actual participatory process which is seen on the ground

In this context, I remember one of the earliest steps, that as Chief Minister, the Hon'ble Prime Minister in Gujarat had taken up, to encourage this 50 per cent. Also unanimous elections he would incentivise so that it was non-partisan and that it was on a common call taken by the Panchayats. So, innovative ways of

wanting people's participation have always been attempted. So, this one is long overdue because it partly also answers a lot of Members who have been saying from the morning, as to why it took nine long years for us to bring the Bill now. I would like to respond and equally as I am going down talking about this Bill, it is important that we build consensus and also show that we are committed to the economic and social empowerment of women as well.

Reservation for women belonging to SC & ST

This Bill, actually, provides, therefore, reservation of seats for women in the House of People, Lok Sabha and also in the Legislative Assemblies of every State and also in the National Capital Territory of Delhi. It proposes, Sir, and again people have picked up on this word, but I reiterate it, that as nearly as, maybe,

This Bill, actually, provides, therefore, reservation of seats for women in the House of People, Lok Sabha and also in the Legislative Assemblies of every State and also in the National Capital Territory of Delhi

one-third seats shall be reserved for women. So, these are the first two salient features of this Bill. What it would do is to bring in a new Article 330A which is intended for reservation of seats for women in the Lok Sabha. Second, it also brings in a new Article 332A which proposes reservation of seats for women in the

State Legislative Assemblies. Another article, which is an existing article, which is Article 239AA, is proposed to be amended to provide reservation for the Legislative Assembly of National Capital Territory of Delhi. So, all these three are happening. It also then intends that there shall be reservation for women belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes in respect of the seats reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

So, consequential amendments, over and above all this, will also be made to the relevant Acts for Puducherry and for J&K. Now we come to the point on which again the previous speaker

has gone into greater detail with his legal acumen to say how exactly this is going to be implemented, I will have a minute on that. As far as implementation of the proposed reservation for women is concerned, a new Article 334A shall be inserted into the Constitution. It intends that after the Bill is enacted and after the Bill comes into operation and thereafter whenever the first census takes place and the relevant figures for that census are published, a fresh delimitation exercise shall be undertaken for the purpose of delimitation of seats for providing reservation for women in Lok Sabha, in State Legislative Assemblies and also in the Legislative Assembly of Delhi.

Four genuinely serious attempts

Now, this exercise of delimitation will be limited to identifying the number of seats and those seats which are to be reserved for women, and it shall not affect *inter se* distribution of seats of Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assemblies. So, we just want to make this absolutely clear as to what this Constitutional Bill

Is this the first time we are talking about this reservation of seats for women? Not at all. There have been four genuinely serious attempts to get this Bill through

is proposing to do, and the provision that reservation of seats shall cease after a period of 15 years from the commencement of this proposed law. So, this is where we are coming up with this Constitution Amendment. It also very clearly states that this reservation of seats shall not apply until the Lok Sabha or Legislative Assembly of a particular State or the Legislative Assembly of Delhi is dissolved. So, that is the main feature of this proposed Constitution Amendment. Is this the first time we are talking about this reservation of seats for women? Not at all. There have been four genuinely serious attempts to get this Bill through.

The first ever attempt was in 1996 on 12th September in the Eleventh Lok Sabha where Shri H.D. Devegowda was the Prime Minister. That Bill which was brought in was referred to

a Joint Committee headed by Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee, who immediately took up the work and within three months; on 9th December, 1996 she gave her report and the Bill remained there for almost a year, but because of the dissolution of the Eleventh Lok Sabha on 4th December, 1997 this Bill also lapsed.

The second attempt was made on 14th December, 1998 by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government in the Twelfth Lok Sabha. In this, the Bill was almost identical to the one which was presented earlier but a 15 year period was brought in. This Bill also lapsed due to the dissolution of Twelfth Lok Sabha on 26th April, 1999.

The third attempt was again made by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on 23rd December, 1999; that was in the Thirteenth Lok Sabha and then the Bill had not been pursued at all because they could not develop any consensus. Again, this also lapsed on the dissolution of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha on 6.2.2004.

It is not a civilization which treats women of one particular group or another particular group differently. We have treated all women with fairness

We have treated all women with fairness

I will just give you the example of Satyakama's mother. An Upanishad has been given in his name! He was a bright star. But when he went in search of his Guru, the Guru asked him, 'Okay, you want to become my student, but who is your father? Would you please tell me?' He didn't know the name of his father. He goes back to his mother, Jabala, to ask her, 'Mama, please tell me who my father is. I have to go, tell my Guru. Otherwise, he will not admit me!' The mother had the courage to tell him, 'I don't know who your father is, go tell this to your Guru!' The boy, in all his earnestness, goes back to the Guru and says, 'Sorry, this is the reply given by my mother!' The Guru understands the situation and readily admits him for his sincerity.

That is the civilization we are talking about. It is not a civilization which treats women of one particular group or another particular group differently. We have treated all women with fairness. There

can be differences during the age as we are coming down to today. But that is Satyakama and Jabala. Jabala, the mother, who could tell her boy to say with pride that you know your mother's name but the mother doesn't know the father, and the Guru had no objection!

Sir, similarly, when Adi Shankara had an argument with Mandana Mishra. When there was a debate going on, who was the judge there? A woman, Ubhaya Bharati, Mandana Mishra's wife. Could she have been admitted or accepted as a judge between the two people debating if only there was some hesitation about dealing with women differently? They readily accepted her. She had the scholarship; that is one thing. But to accept a woman to judge between the two of them as to who is going to be the victor also reflects that men in India, learned or otherwise, didn't have a different idea of woman. Ubhaya Bharati's example tells us that.

22 women who contributed very richly to our Vedas and Upanishads

There are of course 22 women who contributed very richly to our Vedas and Upanishads. I am not taking their names--Gargi and Lopamudra stand out. Similarly, I heard Members this morning also recall eminent fighters and warriors from the South. I will also name Avvai, who gave great, simple two-line aphorisms, which always enamoured all of us. Karaikkal Ammaiyar was a great Bhakti saint. She is treated as a Nayanar.

So, in India, women have had a role in literature, a role in very many different situations. About women warriors, Rani Abbakka, Kittooru Chennamma, Velu Nachiar, Rani Gandilu, Lakshmi Sehgal and, of course, Jhansi ki Rani, all of them are there. I just have

The BJP held its National Convention in 1994 in Vadodara and they very clearly stated that they stand for reservations for women in the Parliament and also in the State Assemblies. If that was in 1994, in 1998, the BJP reiterated its commitment for women's reservation

a random list. So is their prowess in science. E.K. Janaki Ammal was one of the earliest scientists of India. Aseema Chatterjee, Anandiben Joshi, Anna Mani and Darshan Ranganathan were all women of eminence in science. So, we have had this culture of allowing women to do whatever their aspirations lead them to do and we have respected it.

BJP has been consistent in its support for women's reservation

Of course, as they say in Hindi, **विकृतियाँ** have come into the system. We will have to cleanse that, and efforts are being made. In this, I want to highlight that the party that I represent, the BJP,

To further this point, in 2014, prior to the Lok Sabha election, BJP's manifesto openly said that the BJP is in favour of bringing 33 per cent reservation in Parliament and also in the State Assemblies. So did the 2019 manifesto. So, just as Article 370 has always been in the BJP's manifesto, so is women's reservation, be it in 2014 or now in 2019

has been consistent in its support for women's reservation. The BJP held its National Convention in 1994 in Vadodara and they very clearly stated that they stand for reservations for women in the Parliament and also in the State Assemblies. If that was in 1994, in 1998, the BJP reiterated its commitment for women's reservation by introducing it in the Lok Sabha, which I just mentioned a while ago,

under our Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

In July 2003, the BJP held a National Executive meet at Raipur in Chhattisgarh and there they passed a resolution seeking one-third of all Lok Sabha constituencies to be converted for reservation for women. Progressively, that opinion has been refined now, that in 2007, in the National Executive meet, it approved 33 per cent reservation for all organisational positions within the party and in 2008, the BJP amended its Constitution to provide 33 per cent reservation to women in its cadre posts as well and let me take this

opportunity, Sir, in all humility, while thanking my Party, I am one of the beneficiaries of this reservation for women that I am here today and I thank my party for having given me that opportunity.

The BJP has been consistently supportive of women's reservation. I remember, those days were early days for me as a Party spokesperson, but the now lapsed Bill which was passed in Rajya Sabha in 2010, the late Shri Arun Jaitley supported it passionately in the Rajya Sabha and it was passed in the Rajya Sabha -- when it transmitted to Lok Sabha, it did not get through.

The BJP has been absolutely steady in its support for women's reservation and this morning I heard some hon. Members referring to some very picturesque moments when late Shrimati Sushma Swaraj had waited outside the Parliament House, received Shrimati Brinda Karat, an hon. former Member of the Rajya Sabha and they both hugged each other in joy that the Rajya Sabha passed the Bill and it is now the turn for Lok Sabha.

Ujjwala, for a smoke free kitchen, 9.59 crores of people have been given free connections and also Rs. 200 subsidy per cylinder. And newly, we are adding Rs. 75 lakhs more connections. Swachhata Bharat Abhiyan - providing a dignified life for women, providing toilets to them, 11.72 crore toilets have been built in this country

BJP is in favour of bringing 33 per cent reservation

To further this point, in 2014, prior to the Lok Sabha election, BJP's manifesto openly said that the BJP is in favour of bringing 33 per cent reservation in Parliament and also in the State Assemblies. So did the 2019 manifesto. So, just as Article 370 has always been in the BJP's manifesto, so is women's reservation, be it in 2014 or now in 2019. I also heard some Members this morning talk about 'you were paying attention to Article 370, you were paying attention to triple talaq, but you didn't do this women's reservation!' I would like to take this opportunity to say through you, Sir, Article 370 has a very big women's component in it; inter

alia, it didn't allow women to hold property in J&K.

I heard our Hon'ble National President, Shri Nadda ji spoke about Triple Talaq this morning. He said triple talaq is not there in A country, B country, C country, all of which are Muslim dominated countries, but in India it took us a whole process of going through the courts and again politically convincing our people and then

Several Members saying, 'Why a Special Session for this Bill?'

Sir, we have come to a new complex, new building for Parliament for a 'new India'. We would like this Parliament to deal with one of the best Bills that it can deal with and all of us agreed on that

bringing it in, but Prime Minister Modiji did not hesitate. He said if that is to be done for giving rights to Muslim women, we shall do it. So, Triple Talaq also happened. Shri Naddaji clearly explained this. We don't involve or indulge in appeasement politics, but it is important for us to restore the rights of women in women-related matters.

Sir, and I can say with complete confidence, in women-related matters, we don't play any politics. It is an article of faith for the Hon'ble Prime Minister and therefore, we do everything, -- that we have done, -- whether it is Article 370 or whether it is Triple Talaq or looking at now the Women's Reservation Bill. All of it is part of our manifesto anyway.

For social empowerment, for economic empowerment of women

Various measures have been taken by Prime Minister Modiji for social empowerment, for economic empowerment of women. I will just quickly flag off a few of them. Ujjwala, for a smoke free kitchen, 9.59 crores of people have been given free connections and also Rs. 200 subsidy per cylinder. And recently, we are adding Rs. 75 lakhs more connections. Swachha Bharat Abhiyan - providing a dignified life for women, providing toilets to them, 11.72 crore toilets have been built in this country. Beti Bachao Beti Padoo scheme has actually helped in restoring a fair balance

between gender because gender asymmetry-prevalled all over the country, the Prime Minister's Government is the one which gave from 12 weeks of maternity leave to 26 weeks of paid maternity leave for women. These are empowering women.

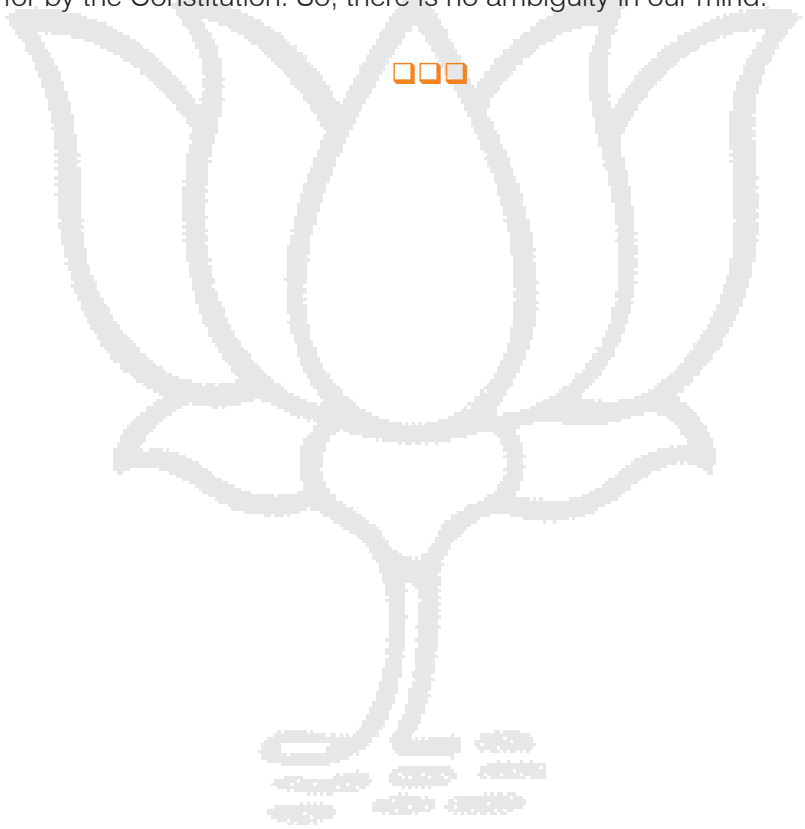
What were we doing between 2014 and 2019? These are the things which we were doing. So, we didn't forget for a moment the empowerment of women. We have given water to the house for health reasons. Otherwise, they were spending hours going miles to get drinking water. Sir, 9.82 crores of new connections under 'Har Ghar Nal Se Jal' have been provided.. So, I won't go further into that list of social empowerment and economic empowerment, but I certainly will take a few more minutes, a bit of considerable time if you would permit me, Sir, on empowering women. There cannot be a more substantial measure than finding them in the Armed Forces. I will list out the kind of things Prime Minister Modi has taken to get women equal treatment. Many of our hon. Members are saying, 'Treat us equal. We don't want you to do pooja or treat us like a Goddess.

‘Why a Special Session for this Bill?’

Then, there was a question raised by several Members saying, 'Why a Special Session for this Bill?' Sir, we have come to a new complex, new building for Parliament for a 'new India'. We would like this Parliament to deal with one of the best Bills that it can deal with and all of us agreed on that. And, I am glad to say this. I thank, from the bottom of my heart, for consideration shown by all parties, irrespective of little reservations they have and questions they have in their mind, and extending support for this historic Bill. This new building handling this as the first Bill, I think, is a very good start and it is a building built for the next 100 years for the country. Sir, even if delimitation is going to come up with new Members, there is enough space to accommodate them.

Sir, it was a bit disheartening to hear some Members say, 'Oh! This Bill is a jumla.' This is a very catchy word. A lot of people love using this word. But, no. Whoever said it – I am not, particularly, naming the Members – it is not a jumla. This Bill is not a jumla. I want you all to please attend to the points that I am trying to make.

Sir, a lot of questions have been asked as to why it is that we won't be able to do the OBC reservation like the way we do the SC or ST reservation. There is no specific mention of electoral reservation in the Constitution for OBCs as it is mentioned for the SCs and STs. That is why this Bill, which brings in the amendment to have 33 per cent reservation, deals with the General category, deals with the SC category and the ST category, which is provided for by the Constitution. So, there is no ambiguity in our mind.



Beyond delivering justice to women, this bill charts a new course for societal progress: Arjun Ram Meghwal

Edited text of the speech of Union Minister Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal while introducing the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam' in the form of 128th Constitutional Amendment Bill 2023 in Lok Sabha on 19 September, 2023:

Respected Speaker Sir, I wish to share crucial details with the esteemed members of the House concerning the significant legislative proposal at hand. This bill marks a momentous and vital initiative for amending the Constitution. It signifies a revolutionary stride in fostering women empowerment. Beyond delivering justice to women, this bill charts a new course for societal progress. It stands as a pivotal measure propelling India towards development in the Amrit Kaal, representing a transformative era for the nation.

Need for a global effort against inequality

As we are all aware, the venerable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, was the architect behind the approval of the Indian Constitution. In his insightful address on 26 January 1950, he shared a significant perspective with us. Dr. Ambedkar unequivocally articulated that while political equality ensures our parity, the government must actively strive to eradicate social, economic, and cultural disparities. He emphasized the need for a global effort against inequality to foster a society that is both prosperous and equitable. Implicit in his words is a cautionary note that while political equality was established with the implementation of the new Indian Constitution on 26 January 1950, sustained efforts are imperative to entirely eliminate inequality in the times that lie ahead.

It stands as a pivotal measure propelling India towards development in the Amrit Kaal, representing a transformative era for the nation

“In political life, we embrace the principle of equality, yet in our social and economic spheres, we grapple with disparities. In the realm of politics, our aim is unity and prosperity, moving towards a singular language and ideology. However, our social and economic fabric faces impediments due to the absence of uniformity and equal prosperity. How much longer can we sustain this paradoxical existence? Until when must we endure this incongruity in our social and economic lives before we earnestly pursue equality?”

Numerous schemes aimed at diminishing social and economic disparities

Since 2014, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the government has implemented numerous schemes aimed at diminishing social and economic disparities

All subsequent administrations failed to heed Baba Saheb's caution, neglecting to devise comprehensive strategies for achieving social and economic equality. However, since 2014, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the

government has implemented numerous schemes aimed at diminishing social and economic disparities. These initiatives encompass effective measures, with a particular focus on women empowerment—a crucial stride toward fostering positive change and prosperity. In addition to programs like the toilet construction initiative, significant efforts have been directed towards enhancing women's self-defense capabilities, aligning with the constitutional spirit and fostering prosperity.

Women aspire for equality—a vision that encompasses access to electricity, liberation from darkness, the presence of a toilet in every household, and the right to dignity and respect. The most significant transformation towards achieving this equality for women occurred post-2014. During this period, the number of schemes specifically tailored for women increased, the allocated

budget witnessed a rise, and the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) also experienced growth, reflecting a substantial stride towards gender equality.

I would like to emphasize that the Constitution of India explicitly envisions social and economic justice, as well as advocates for opportunities and equality. Presently, as we advance in this direction, women will play a pivotal role in enhancing opportunities and fostering greater equality. To integrate women into the realm of rights, four crucial steps are imperative, and it is our responsibility to enact them. We are diligently progressing in this direction, comprehending and promoting four key arguments that will be expounded upon during discussions. I look forward to addressing this matter in more detail when the opportunity arises.

Women will advance, opportunities will proliferate, and equality will flourish

In the present era, women will advance, opportunities will proliferate, and equality will flourish. To integrate women into the realm of rights, four imperative steps are requisite, and it is our responsibility to enact them. We are diligently progressing in this direction, comprehending and promoting four key principles. Further elaboration on this subject will be provided during discussions, and I look forward to addressing it in greater detail when I have the opportunity to speak.

In the present era, women will advance, opportunities will proliferate, and equality will flourish. To integrate women into the realm of rights, four imperative steps are requisite, and it is our responsibility to enact them

First Amendment: An amendment to the Constitution is being proposed by adding Article 239A to Article 239. This amendment aims to bring about positive changes in the status of the national capital, Delhi, by reserving 33 percent of seats for women. This marks the first modification in Clause 2 of the MLA.

Second Amendment: An amendment to the Constitution

is being proposed by adding Section 330A to Article 330. This amendment entails the reservation of 33 percent of seats for women in the Lok Sabha. This significant step is aimed at fostering social equality and is being incorporated into the third article of the Constitution.

Third Amendment: A modification to the MLA involves the inclusion of a new Article 332A after Article 332 in the Constitution. This amendment stipulates special representation for women, reserving 33 percent of seats to include women in local bodies.

Fourth Amendment: The Fourth Amendment proposes the addition of a new Article 334A after Article 334 of the Constitution. The current discussion in the House pertains to the reservation

The party, through a resolution, endorsed the reservation of 33% of seats for women by amending its constitution. This decision holds great significance as it aims to enhance the representation of women within the party and foster their empowerment

of seats for women. This reservation will be applicable for a duration of 15 years. If an extension is deemed necessary after this period, the decision will rest with Parliament. Parliament will exclusively possess the authority to extend the reservation. Furthermore, as the number of seats increases, the reservation for women will also increase by 33

percent. This bill underwent discussion yesterday, and I would like to provide some context on this matter.

BJP took a monumental step towards empowering women

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) took a monumental step towards empowering women during its Baroda National Executive Meeting. The party, through a resolution, endorsed the reservation of 33% of seats for women by amending its constitution. This decision holds great significance as it aims to enhance the representation of women within the party and

foster their empowerment. Additionally, this move has exerted pressure on other political entities, sparking a crucial debate on the issue of women's reservation. The BJP has consistently strived to implement a 33% reservation for women in both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. Even during the tenure of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led government, numerous efforts were undertaken, including convening meetings to build a consensus among all political parties on this matter.

The Women's Reservation Bill was initially introduced in 1996 during the Eleventh Lok Sabha under the leadership of Shri H.D. Deve Gowda. The government, led by Deve Gowda Ji, presented the bill, and subsequently, it was referred to a parliamentary committee that submitted a detailed report on the matter.

Nevertheless, after the submission of the report, the Lok Sabha was dissolved, leading to the lapse of the bill. Following this, the Women's Reservation Bill was reintroduced in both the Twelfth (1998) and Thirteenth (1999) Lok Sabha sessions, but it is still awaiting passage in Parliament. Recognized as a significant stride towards empowering women and ensuring their equal participation in the political arena, it calls for collective efforts from all political parties to collaboratively work towards its successful enactment.

We were in the opposition, and despite several requests to the government to bring the bill for discussion in the Lok Sabha, no heed was paid, and there was a lack of respect for the bill

BJP extended wholehearted support to this bill

I would like to provide the background of this bill, as during the tenure of UPA-1, the committee's report was presented on December 17, 2009, under the leadership of Manmohan Singh. Subsequently, the bill was introduced for discussion in the Rajya Sabha on March 9, 2010. The deliberations spanned two days and encountered significant opposition, with some MPs even tearing copies of the bill. Despite the challenges, the bill eventually

secured passage in the Rajya Sabha, with the steadfast support of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The BJP extended wholehearted support to this bill.

After the bill was discussed and passed in the Rajya Sabha, it was 'communicated' to the Lok Sabha on March 12, 2010. Upon being read by the Secretary General of the Lok Sabha, it became the 'property' of the Lok Sabha. During that period, we were in the opposition, and despite several requests to the government to bring the bill for discussion in the Lok Sabha, no heed was paid, and there was a lack of respect for the bill. Consequently, the bill lapsed when the Lok Sabha was dissolved on May 18, 2014. There was no intention or effort in the Lok Sabha to bring this bill for discussion. Yesterday, it was asserted that the Constitution clearly outlines its provision, referencing Sub-Article 5 of Article 107.

An extremely crucial bill

If any bill is pending in the Lok Sabha, it will lapse with the dissolution of the Lok Sabha. This provision is enshrined in the Constitution. I would like to emphasize that this is an extremely crucial bill, and it would be highly beneficial if consensus is achieved through your guidance. We are open to considering the suggestions put forth by the members. To conclude my speech, I would like to share a poem about women from our scriptures:

तुम सृष्टि की आधारशिला,
तुम से मानव को प्राण मिला,
संगीत तू ही है कण-कण में,
तुम ने जीवन में रंग भरा।
तुम मां भी हो और बेटी भी,
तुम बहन और अर्धांगिनी,
तुम प्रेम भी हो और शक्ति भी,
तुम से ही जीवन पूर्ण हुआ।

You are the essence of creation, bestowing life upon humanity. In every particle, you resonate like a beautiful melody, infusing

life with vibrant hues. As both mother and daughter, sister and guardian, you embody both love and strength. Life finds its completeness in your presence.

Enacting this legislation will effectively address the issue of representation. I encourage the commencement of deliberations, and concerted efforts should be made to secure unanimous approval for the bill.

Thank you very much!





Shri Amit Shah, Union Home & Cooperation Minister

I want to express heartfelt congratulations to the leader of this house and the Prime Minister of the country, Shri Narendra Modi, through you, for genuinely honouring the 'Matri Shakti', which is a part of the 1.4 billion population, in a real sense. In the G-20 summit, respected Narendra Bhai presented this idea before the entire world. He brought up the concept of "women-led development" in front of a global audience.

20 September, 2023



Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India



A defining moment in our nation's democratic journey! Congratulations to 140 crore Indians. I thank all the Rajya Sabha MPs who voted for the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam. Such unanimous support is indeed gladdening. With the passage of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam in Parliament, we usher in an era of stronger representation and empowerment for the women of India. This is not merely a legislation; it is a tribute to the countless women who have made our nation. India has been enriched by their resilience and contributions. As we celebrate today, we are reminded of the strength, courage, and indomitable spirit of all the women of our nation. This historic step is a commitment to ensuring their voices are heard even more effectively.

21 September, 2023



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