

Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam-2023

Another Deception

The Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha passed the Women's Reservation Bill (Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam-2023) on September 20 and 21, 2023 by the Modi government through the 128th Constitutional Amendment. This bill has been introduced in Parliament many times over the past three decades, has been rejected by various parties for various reasons. Various Progressive Women's Organisations and left parties have been demanding for many years to implement 50% reservation for Women in legislatures; including reservations for SC, ST, OBC and Minorities on the basis of Population. According to this 128th constitutional amendment bill, there are no reservations for OBCs and minorities. This bill is likely to come into force only after conducting 2026 census. And more over it will be abolished after 15 years of implementation. This bill does not mention about reservation for Women in Rajya Sabha and State Legislative Councils.

The BJP which has been in power for the past 9 years at Centre has made many tyrannical laws and implemented many controversial decisions. The opposition parties were not even allowed to discuss. The BJP fearlessly and shamelessly manipulate the facts as they want to say and mastered in the campaign by using the media and social media which are under their control. As a part of that, the Women's Reservation Bill was introduced and approved in such a hurry.

During this nine years tenure, brutal attacks on women have increased in the country, especially in BJP ruling states. In the murder case of an eight-year-old girl Asifa in Kashmir, the BJP has lashed out at the accused. In Hathras incident also BJP stood on the side of accused. And announced amnesty to the convicts in Bilkis Bano gang rape case. No action has been taken against Brij Bhushan, President of the Wrestling Federation, despite allegations of sexual harassment by the wrestlers. No one who are in responsible positions responded nor taken any action on the incident of Kuki tribal women being paraded naked in Manipur. Moreover, the BJP is calling for the preservation of Sanatana Dharma, which is trying to keep all the downtrodden sections of the people, including women, in the status quo.

Women and democrats across the country vigorously responded on the two issues of sexual harassment on female wrestlers and the naked procession of tribal women in Manipur. Protests erupted all over the country. In the context of widespread awareness among the public that along with Modi and Amit Shah, the entire BJP party is anti-women, the BJP brought forward the Women Reservation Bill in order to get out of this. BJP wouldn't have cared about any protests if it wasn't election time. But now elections are approaching.

At this crucial time, this bill is a trap to attract women. But not a sympathetic effort towards women or sincere towards the women's representation in legislatures.

Not only BJP; any political party has not allotted enough seats to women in the last Lok Sabha elections or in the assembly election of various states. More over the elected women representatives to the Legislature represents whom is an important factor here. Does Draupadi Murmu, a tribal woman being President of India, representing the downtrodden tribal women in the country today? The President who helped to pass the Forest Conservation Amendment Bill to evict the tribals from the forests; is in no way representative to not only the tribal women but also to any oppressed women. Similarly, the women representatives in various parties at the national or state level are the representatives of exploiting classes but never the representatives of the oppressed people.

Already 33.3% reservation for women is being implemented in local bodies. It is a well-known fact that most of them have only nominal positions but the real power is in hands of their men. There are many incidents where upper caste dominant men have taken over the chairs in the offices and made the Sarpanch sit on the floor, where Dalit women are Sarpanches.

While the ideology of patriarchy and dominance of the upper castes is firmly rooted in the society, allotting only a few positions of power to women will not bring any change in the condition of ordinary women. This is nothing but a strategy by BJP to convince women voters during elections.