

Title: Constitution (Eighty-fourth Amendment) Bill (Amendment) of articles 239AA, 331 and 333 and insertion of new articles 330A, 332A and 334A). Introduction of the Bill-postponed.

12.50 hrs.

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the Constitution (Eighty-fourth Amendment) Bill 1998 is highly significant in that it aims at meaningful political participation by women. The House, as it is, stands divided on some of its provisions as certain Parties have strong reservations about the same and have, therefore, even objected to the introduction of the Bill. In a parliamentary system of democracy, it is desirable to function in a homogenous and consensual manner. We are all aware of what happened yesterday in the House and we cannot allow this situation to continue, if we are to maintain the best parliamentary traditions.

I have accordingly been consulting leaders on this issue and trying to reach a consensus which has so far not been possible.

In the all party meeting held this morning, a suggestion was made that the introduction of the Bill may be deferred so that the matter could be discussed again between Parties and Leaders and an amicable solution acceptable to all sections reached.

In the circumstances, I propose, with the agreement of the House, that the introduction of the Bill be postponed for the time being.

... (Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (CALCUTTA SOUTH): Sir, we are not prepared to accept it ...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet at 2 p.m.

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12.52 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.