

Standing Committee Report Summary

The Constitution (One Hundred and Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2008

- The Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice submitted its 36th Report on 'The Constitution (One Hundred and Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2008' on December 17, 2009. The Chairperson was Smt Jayanthi Natarajan.
- The Committee was of the view that reservation is needed to ensure the participation of women and to make the democratic process inclusive. It stated that reservation in Panchayats and Municipalities have led to positive impact at the grass root level for women and argued that this further augments the need for reservation for women in state assemblies and Parliament.
- The Committee recommended that the 15 year time limit prescribed for reservation should be reconsidered so that women are able to achieve adequate political representation in the Parliament and state assemblies.
- The procedure for determining the constituencies reserved for women was not clearly laid down in the Act. The Committee recommended that the government should consider the matter in an appropriate manner.
- The Committee suggested that the government should consider reservation for women in the Rajya Sabha and the Legislative Councils as well as reservation for Other Backward Classes.
- A dissent note was given by Shri Virendra Bhatia and Shri Shailendra Kumar who stated that they objected to the Bill in its current form. They suggested that political parties should give at least 20% of their party tickets to women; reservation should not be more than 20% and there should be reservation for women belonging to Other Backward Classes and minorities.

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