

### **Special Mention:**

Thank you Madam Speaker, for providing me an opportunity to raise a matter of urgent public importance in the House. I would like to speak about the state of female literacy in our nation, the Commonwealthland.

The women have a mere 60 percent literacy rate, in comparison to the other gender, with a whopping 80 percent. Female literacy doesn't only have an intrinsic value, but also instrumental value attached to it. Quoting a recent interaction, in one of the constituency of Commonwealthland, how being illiterate, and belonging to a poor household, she was forcibly married to a groom much elder than her, and how she barely manages to support her family, after his demise. It reflects how being illiterate, she is unable to come out of the darkness which surrounds her. Being educated, makes a female, self-dependent, gives her the freedom to protect herself from any kind of oppression or injustice against her. Talking about the instrumental value, attached to it, more educated female population, implies more female working force; leading to a rise in GDP as well. Also, it is the multi-dimensional impact which I want the house to focus on i.e. being a mother, if female is more educated, she can better take care of her child, apply the medical procedure properly, a working woman implies more financial resources are available with the family, so the household can devote more resources to the child care. Hence, it simultaneously fights with the widespread problem of child-mortality and poverty as well. Female literacy implies more informed woman, hence a better society, more tolerable for both gender. It would open the new corridors of employment opportunities for them. Keeping in view all the great impact, efforts in this direction can have on our economy. I request the house to assign die importance to this, in the Woman and child development bill, proper initiative backed by appropriate funds can do the needful. One of the major step could be to provide education to females, at a subsidized fee, so that it is affordable for all. Additionally, equal workforce behaviour and treatment should be ensured for both the gender.

Ms. Vasihnavi Kaushik

### **Special Mention:**

A member of my constituency St.Thompso has come to me and highlighted that they are very passionate about policy making and being in the driver seat as it relates to youth development and participation in politics along with positive things.

However when consulted the government, he was told that youth investment in politics is a mockery of the system and mediocre. This was also mentioned in the session yesterday by Minister Jones.

The opposition strongly believes in youth development, entrepreneurship and leadership. We are hereby concerned that if this government doesn't allow for youth participation now, when we the current leaders are dead and gone there will be chaos and no order on commonwealth land.

Mr. Tyrell Giles

### **Special Mention:**

Thank you Madam Speaker, during past 3 years, I had an opportunity to present many a social issues in the house. the most important issues in were concerning women and child abuse. Today i am presenting issues related to mental health. As C. S. Lewis quoted “Mental pain is less dramatic than physical pain, but it is more common and also harder to bear. The frequent attempt to conceal mental pain increases the burden: it is easier to say “My tooth is aching” than to say “My heart is broken.”

In today's time 2443 people are affected by mental health on daily basis in 1 lakh population. I want to tell you Madam, this section is the most marginalised and neglected in our society. They include mentally issues like depression and even those who have these challenges from birth. I would like to request our Honorable Health Minister to formulate some policies which will increase financial assistance in form of Healthcare Centres which are specialised in mental health and even some regular health check-up in every area possible so that all get the benefit of it, leaving no one behind. The people affected from mental issues constitute about 5 crore of our population, deserves special care and protection. I request the Government to immediately take steps in this regard. I am thankful to you Madam Speaker for allowing me to raise this issue on the floor of the house. Thank you Madam.

Sonam Gupta

### **Special Mention:**

Madam Speaker, young people's participation in politics in commonwealth land is at an all time low. Those young people who are less educated or from an ethnic minority background are even less likely to believe they can have any influence in politics.

But opportunities to understand how politics and democracies work, or the ability to speak and be heard, are few and far between for many young people. The media and political establishment has failed to properly engage with young people.

But to all the young people of the commonwealth land: your opinion matters and it is a failure of this house that you feel so alienated from the political system.

So I am advocating that citizenship and politics be made a core part of the curriculum in state education. We have to give young people the tools they need and deserve to contribute to our democracy as their opinions are just as valuable as anyone else's.

If this House can work together, to get behind an issue I'm sure we all really care about, I'm hopeful things can change for the better for young people.

**Banseka Kayembe**