Kavitha calls for change in one-family political system

Hyderabad: Nizamabad MP Kavitha Kalvakuntla on Thursday strongly advocated a change in ‘one family political system’ which is prevalent in many states. For this change to come about and to ‘discourage’ mean politicians from their political bastions,’ Kavitha said there is urgent need for 33% reservation for women bill to be passed by Parliament and urged NDA government to take initiative.

Speaking at the Youth Thinkers’ Conference at the Indian School of Business (ISB), Kavitha said that women are forced to stay away from politics because they are subjected to personal scrutiny more than men. “One should go beyond the colour of the saree a woman wears and the choice of her dress. Give importance to what she speaks rather than focus on trivial issues,” she said and pointed out even when the international media had erred in focusing on trivial matters when two strong leaders — German Chancellor Angela Merkel and UK Prime Minister Theresa May — met recently. “Was it necessary to discuss the colour of Merkel’s clothing and the legs of May,” she asked, highlighting how the media trivialised women politicians.

Kavitha said there were three obstacles for women for entering politics — media, money and men. “What can we do about men? We all know,” she said leaving it there about men being obstacles for women getting into politics.

“In my case, I have been lucky. My family did not discriminate between me and my brother. There are many more women who are more deserving than me but have not been able to make it into politics,” she observed. While media has to change the way it looks at women politicians, she suggested that women should be made financially independent. She said this can happen if properties are registered on women’s names. With the financial part taken care of, she said women will be able to enter politics. She further pointed out that the two-bedroom houses built by Telangana government were registered in name of women and also three-acre land distributed was registered after women’s names. “It was a noble mission of state government. Though 15,000 acres has been distributed, much more could have been done but there was problem of finding land,” she said.

She said culturally in India, no one had a problem of women doing leadership roles and pointed out how Indira Gandhi was a strong PM. “But, how much changed at ground level for women is another question,” she said and added that when UPA government was at the helm, though PM was Manmohan Singh, everyone knew who was the force behind.