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A National conference to uphold equal opportunity

Dalit Students' Solidarity movement (DSSM) has organized a **National conference on "SC/ST Reservation Bill 2008 and Academic Untouchability"** in AP Bhawan Ashoka Road in against of unconstitutional move of the UPA Govt. towards their demand for withdrawal of Section 4 of **SC/ST (Reservation in Posts and Services) Bill 2008** and pass the bill in the true spirit of promoting social justice. **Justice Rama Swami, P.S. Krishnan** (Retired IAS officer), **Pravin Rashtrapal, Congress MP** and hundreds of faculty members from different universities participated in the conference and assured his support on the issue.

According to DSSM organizing member **Paul Divakar**, we had a huge Rally yesterday, now National Conference today and if Govt. goes ahead with the Bill the whole Dalits community will come on road.

Dalit community is disappointed with this bill which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha on 23rd December 2008 is slated to be introduced in the ensuing session of Lok Sabha commenced on 12th February, 2009. This bill is once again a reflection of the discriminatory ethos that Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are fit only to occupy the lowest positions in society said Divakar.

D. Raja said that this inhuman move of the Govt. is blocking the entry of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes into specified PSUs and 47 educational institutions, the Bill makes it easy to declare the SCs and the STs "unfit" for any job.

This is the shameful step of UPA Govt. who is taking undue advantage of last session of the parliament. Its time to come together to fight for oppressed said Comrade Brinda Karat in the conference.

Govt. is spending cores of rupees on education to uplift the weaker section of the society and other side introducing a bill which blocks the opportunity for them said **Pravin Rashtrapal a Congress M.P.**

The ruling coalition at the Centre stealthily passed the Bill in less than two minutes amid din in the House and without any discussion. It was a strategy employed during the December 2008 session by the Govt. to pass many such Bills without discussion. This type of caste based discrimination not only produces inhibition/humiliation among Dalit students, it also makes them take extreme steps like committing suicide as in the case of Senthil kumar in Central University, Hyderabad.

Dalit Students' Solidarity movement (DSSM) emerged from and within students, faculty members, human rights activists and progressive individuals who are working on various issues of discrimination in education.

You are requested to broadcast/publish the story to put pressure on UPA Govt. to take back its instance bill which is undemocratic, unconstitutional, unparliamentarily and inhuman.

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