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## **Stalin hints at 50 % quota for women in local bodies**

Staff Reporter

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*which are boycotting elections"*

*"It is to DMK's credit that women self-help groups are started in 1989 itself"*

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BARGUR: The State government is contemplating increasing the reservation for women in local bodies from 33 per cent to 50 per cent, M.K. Stalin hinted at a campaign meeting at Majithkothapalli in the Bargur Assembly constituency on Sunday.

He said the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam government was implementing various welfare measures for women. It was this government which introduced the Rs.6,000 maternity assistance scheme for the maintenance of pregnant woman and foetus, free education for girls and marriage assistance of Rs.20,000 for poor girls. Mr. Stalin said the DMK could pride itself on the fact that the concept of women self-help groups was started in Thali, a backward area in Krishnagiri District, in 1989 by Mr. Karunanidhi in his earlier stint as Chief Minister. The scheme

was started with a view to capacitate women in society to improve their standard of living through various self-employment opportunities.

The ruling DMK is on a winning spree since the 2006 Assembly elections because of its good governance and welfare schemes for the poor and downtrodden. He also cited that the State government's recently launched 'Kalaigiar Kappeethu Thittam' for the poor and middle-income people.

Referring to the boycott of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam in the by-elections in the State, he said people will boycott in future those political parties which are boycotting elections. He said some parties in the AIADMK front were vanishing faster than was expected after the Parliament elections because of their attitudes.

On the third day of his campaigning, he started his tour in Anjur village on the Krishnagiri-Puducherry National Highway. His tour van was followed by convoy of hundreds of vehicles along Naikanur, Nakkalpatti, I. Kothapalli, Majitgollahalli, Ikontham, Thattkkal, Sandhur, Veppalampatti, Valasagoundanur, Pullampatti, Attiyanur, Pandaseemanur, Chakkilnatham and the campaign culminated at Bargur with a public meeting.