

Seventeenth Lok Sabha

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Title: Request to conduct a caste based censues to get a clarity on which caste group has benefitted from the development of India.

**SHRI TALARI RANGAIAH (ANANTAPUR):** Sir, please allow me to tell you why we need caste-based Census. Our Indian society is stratified on the basis of caste, whether we believe it or not or whether we agree with it or not. It is a ground reality that all Indians are not equal socially and economically.

In this country, the top 10 per cent population owns, shares and enjoys 74.3 per cent of the nation's wealth, while the bottom 50 per cent population are depending only on 2.8 per cent of the nation's wealth, and 40 per cent of the population holds 22.9 per cent of the nation's wealth. This data clearly gives us a clear picture of the increasing class-based inequality in Indian society. We are sitting in the country's highest law making body. We must reduce the gap between the rich and the poor.

It is high time to take up caste-based Census in order to get clarity on which caste groups have benefitted from the development story of India and which caste groups have been left out.

I am very happy to inform this august House that the Legislative Assembly of my State Andhra Pradesh under the dynamic leadership of Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy Garu has resolved unanimously and recommended to the Government of India to take up caste-based Census. Hence, I request the Central Government to conduct the caste-based Census at the earliest without further delay.

