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Title: Regarding collection of caste-wise data under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme-laid.

SHRI P.R. NATARAJAN (COIMBATORE): I came to know that the Ministry of Rural Development has asked the states to provide data caste-wise under MGNREGA Scheme. This is the first time under the scheme that this kind of data has been sought since its inception in 2006. According to the rules, every adult of this country who seeks work should be provided for 100 days of minimum employment in a year without consideration about his/her religion and caste. In this connection, I would like to state that at present SC/ST sections collectively got 140 crore man days which is 37.76%. In our country, SC/ST population accounts for 24.4% while their participation is more than their population. In the budget, allocations are made to sub-plan as per the ratio of their population. In case, funds under sub-plan are to be routed to MGNREGA works, only upto 24.4% is to be allocated on the basis of population. Then, where will the funds for remaining 13% man-days come from? So in the guise of release of funds under sub-plan works to dalits, tribals will be reduced by half resulting in enslavement of these sections to landlords, as in the past. Even OBCs are going to be deprived. In villages, works under MGNREGA is the life line for dalits and tribals. Caste based work allocation in rural areas will have an impact and caste feeling will be aroused leading to formation of caste groups at work places. The feudal forces will ensure that dalits and tribals get tougher works and get less wages. The unity amongst work force will surely get hampered.

So, I request our hon'ble Minister, not to seek caste-wise data under MGNREGA scheme which besides reducing man days for SC/ST population which is the life line for their livelihood will also arouse caste feeling at work places.