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Title: Need to include Veerashaiva Lingayat/Linga Baliya caste in the Central list of OBC at the national level.

**SHRI B. B. PATIL (ZAHIRABAD):** Hon. Chairperson, Sir, thank you. I need your permission to change my subject.

The issue is pending for the last twenty years and it requires immediate attention of the hon. Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, Veerashaiva Lingayat caste in the State of Telangana was included in the list of Backward Classes (BC-D) by the erstwhile Government of Andhra Pradesh at serial No. 46 based on the report submitted by the Chairman of AP Commission for Backward Classes vide G.O. Ms. No. 22 Backward Class Welfare (C2) Department dated 28.02.2009.

In Telangana, people belonging to the Veerashaiva Lingayat caste do not have any proper education and majority of them are working as daily wagers, agricultural labourers, maids and servants, and petty vendors. Most of the people live in houses made of mud walls with no sanitary facility. They have hardly any facility of proper housing and drinking water. The Central Government told us to first get the caste included in the State OBC list and then, come to the Centre. We followed the instructions and got the caste included in the State OBC list. It has been ten years now, but unfortunately, it is still pending at the level of the Central Government.

It is only after our community was included in the State B.C. List, people belonging to that caste started getting good education and placements. But it is only at the level of the State.

Though we are found to be eligible to have reservation facilities because of our social and educational backwardness in the State of Telangana, similar benefits are not being provided to us at the level of the Centre. Our Community is not included in the list of OBC at the national level.

Since our caste is already included in the State BC list based on social and educational backwardness, we deserve the same reservation facility at the national level also. Due to non-inclusion of our caste/community, Veerashaiva Lingayat/Linga Balija, in the list of OBC at the national level, we are put at a great hardship. There are many castes in our Telangana State as well as in other States which have not been included for the past many years because of small spelling mistakes and just because of such small mistakes, the entire community is suffering.

It is also put on record that the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have already forwarded recommendations to include Veerashaiva Lingayat caste in the list of OBC at the national level.

Hence, I would like to request the hon. Minister and the Government to take necessary steps at the earliest to include Veerashaiva Lingayat/Linga Balija caste in the list of OBC at the national level. Thank you, Sir.

