

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding inclusion of Beda Jangam Community in SC List.

DR. SANJEEV KUMAR SINGARI (KURNOOL): Empowerment and development of marginalized sections of the society is the commitment enshrined in our Constitution. But the fact is that many marginalized sections are pushed down due to incoherent and inconsistent decisions. I am talking about Budaga Jangam community, also called as Beda community. The community was recognized as Scheduled Caste in Part-1 of the Constitution, in the SC Act 1976. It was listed at Serial No.19 in undivided Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Castes List. Also it is listed in Karnataka Scheduled Castes List at Serial Number 98. Yet, the community is denied the benefit of reservation. Most of them are wandering job seekers and many of them survive by story-telling profession called Jangama Kathalu. They are in the lowest stratum of the society, both socially and economically. They are often humiliated and treated as untouchables. Many committees like Lokur Commission, Ramachandra Rao Commission, Usha Mehra Commission and Moti Lal Commission reported the presence of this community in 13 districts of Andhra Pradesh. But in AP Reorganisation Act 2014, Budaga Jangam community was removed from the SC List. This final punch on the poor and marginalized Budaga Jangam community has crippled and pushed them to a corner of the society. I request the Government of India to consider their long pending demand of Budaga Jangam people for their inclusion in Scheduled Castes List.