

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding issues related to Maratha and Lingayat Communities.

SHRI OM PAVAN RAJENIMBALKAR (OSMANABAD): Hon'ble Chairperson, Sir, thank you. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government towards important issues related to Maratha and Lingayat Communities.

Hon'ble Sir, the 50% cap on reservation should be removed to extend the benefits of reservation to Maratha community and minority States should be accorded to Lingayat community. Sir, this Lingayat community is follower of 12th century Saint Mahatma Basaveshwar. It was recognized as a minority community in pre-independence era and it is mentioned in the official records. This community has a sizable population in the State of Karnataka and around 7% Lingayats are residing in Maharashtra. This Lingayat community has been raising their voice for the status of minority for the last many years because they are deprived of the constitutional benefits being minority. It would help to bring them into main stream. I request the Union Government to take necessary steps to ensure minority status to Lingayat community. I would also like to request the Central Government to remove the cap of 50% to provide reservation to Maratha community. In this regard, the Government should bring a constitutional amendment bill for removal of this cap to provide reservation facility to the Maratha community immediately.