

**Demand to include the Banjara Lambadi community in ST list as against the present list of BC in Tamil Nadu**

**DR. A. CHELLAKUMAR (KRISHNAGIRI):** Hon. Chairman Sir, Vanakkam, Thank you for this opportunity. In my Krishnagiri parliamentary constituency, as many as 15000 people belonging to Banjara Lambadi community live in places like Kachwadi, Kundalam, Paalegu, Anjetti and Virugam, As many as 2 lakh people of this Lambadi community live in Dharmapuri, Tiruvannamalai and Salem districts of Tamil Nadu. They are mostly tribal people. They are earning their livelihood working as daily wagers or unskilled labourers. They are very much suffering as they do not have proper housing, drinking water and road facilities. Children in these Lambadi communities study only upto 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> Standard or upto a maximum of 10<sup>th</sup> Standard. Then they become dropouts. Degree holders are very less in number from this community. Less than 100 persons from this community may be in government jobs. In Tamil Nadu the people belonging to this Banjara Lambadi are considered as those of Backward caste. At the same time, they are listed as SC in Karnataka and ST in Andhra Pradesh. I urge upon the Union Government through you Sir that this Banjara Lambadi community people should be included in the ST List as against the present list of BC in Tamil Nadu in order to uplift them economically in the society by way of providing them their livelihood. Thank you Sir.