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Title: Need to include Halba, Halbi, Gowari, Gawari and Mana as separate castes in the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill- Laid.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGPUR) : The people belonging to the "Gowari", "Gawari", "Halba" and "Halhi" and "Mana" have been agitating for a long time for the inclusion of these castes in the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Order Bill. Being denied of the benefits available to the Scheduled Tribes, the youth belonging to the "Halba" and "Halbi" castes have now resorted to large scale agitations in Nagpur and other places for the inclusion of these castes in the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Order Bill.

While considering the revision of the List of Scheduled Tribes, the criteria adopted was based on primitive trades, distinctive culture, geographic isolation and backwardness. The "Halba Koshtis" or "Koshits" are not Scheduled Tribes and they are different from "Halba" or Halbi". In fact, "Halba Koshti" is the sub caste of the "Halba/Halbi" who are being denied the benefits available to the Scheduled Tribe community. "Halbas/Halbis" took up weaving profession and hence their caste has been amalgamated with "Koshti". Various committees appointed by the Government and the decisions of the Courts have described "Halba Koshti" as the sub tribe of the main caste "Halba/Halhi". The Government of Maharashtra have recommended for inclusion of "Halba/Halbi" as the separate caste in Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Order Bill which has not been done by the Government so far. This is causing lot of resentment amongst the "Halba/Halbi" community being deprived of their legitimate benefits.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to include "Halba", "Halbi", "Gowari", "Gawari" and "Mana" as separate castes in the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Order (Amendment) Bill.