

Title: Need to include 'Chain Community' of West Bengal in the list of Scheduled Caste -Laid.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (BERHAMPORE, WEST BENGAL): Thirty lakh people of "Chain Community residing in the districts of Murshidabad, Malda, Birbhum, West Dinajpur in the State of West Bengal are predominantly poor and downtrodden. Literacy rate among male is one per cent and for female is as negligible as 0.001 per cent. Farming and vegetable vending are the only way of their livelihood. But in spite of their backwardness, they have not been included in the list of scheduled community. Cultural Research CAL Institute has on more than three occasions recommended to the Union Government for considering the inclusion of this community in SC list under Article 341. A motion in this regard was mooted in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly which was adopted on 24.11.1997. Moreover, the community does have the distinct language namely Chain Bhasa. Even "Mandal Commission" has acknowledged the Chains as a weaker and backward class in political, social and economic terms. I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to take such a step to assuage the feeling of this community by giving them the status of Scheduled Caste.