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Title: Need to include Marathi community of Kerala in the list of Scheduled Tribes.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Madam, I would like to attract the attention of the Government with regard to some serious issues, especially some of the communities which are excluded from the ST List.

If you see from 1952 onwards the Marathi community in Kerala and also in Karnataka are in the ST List. Without any proper inquiry or assessment at the time of the NDA Government, that is from 2002 onwards, the Marathi community was excluded from the ST List. There is no justification for this decision taken by the then Government. The Government of Kerala, either the UDF or the LDF Government and also the SCST Committee and the Minority Committee have unanimously represented the Central Government to include them in the ST List. The prime feature of the tribe is their educational backwardness and also their primitive nature, the geographical specialty and the social backwardness. These are still prevailing as far as Marathi community in the State of Kerala is concerned. People living just 10 Kms. away from Kasargod are in the ST List but people from the other side are not in the ST List. This is really an in justification shown to the poor community.

I would request the Government to take the necessary action and come with an amendment so as to include them in the ST List.