

Participants : [Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari](#)

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Title: Need to review the decision regarding categorization of scheduled castes into sub-castes.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (CUTTACK): But my suggestion is different.

I would like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that the Government of India has decided to constitute a one-man Commission to study the feasibility of the contentious project to sub-categorise the Scheduled Castes. This is a highly volatile issue and the move is bound to generate heat and controversy. The proposal to divide dalits into groups and split the reservation quota among them has brought the strong and weak groups among dalits at loggerheads.

In Andhra Pradesh, there is a head on collision between Madigas and Malas. In Orissa, the division is being carved out as so-called “Untouchable Dalits” and “Touchable Dalits”. Dominant Scheduled Caste groups like Chamars in North India are agitated over this issue of sub-categorisation of dalits. What has made the issue contentious is Government’s green signal to the micro division of the Scheduled Castes despite the Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Castes (Rationalization of Reservation) Act, 2000 being struck down by a Constitution Bench of the Apex Court. The five-judge Bench held that sub-classification of the Scheduled Castes was violative of Article 14. It had also called it beyond the legislative competence of the State. Sub-division of the Scheduled Castes is also violative of the basic structure of the Constitution.

I would urge upon the Government to stop playing with fire. Identifying the Creamy Layer is one thing but sub-dividing Scheduled Castes in the name of specific caste is not only unconstitutional but also dangerous.

सभापति महोदय : जिन माननीय सदस्यों के नाम रह गये हैं, वे कल दुबारा नोटिस देकर मामला उठा सकते हैं।

...(व्यवधान)

सभापति महोदय : पहले मेरी बात सुन लें। मैंने यह कहा है कि आज शाम को पी.एल.बी. में बच्चों का एक सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम है, सभी माननीय सदस्य आमंत्रित हैं। जिनका नोटिस आया है, वह मामला कल ले लिया जायेगा लेकिन फिर से आप सुबह नोटिस दे दें।

...(व्यवधान)

सभापति महोदय : सदन सर्वोच्च है, इसलिये सभी सदस्यों को एक-एक मिनट दिया जाता है।