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Title: Need to include the Bheel Community of Orissa in the list of Scheduled Tribe.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (SAMBALPUR): The Bheel Community in Orissa is economically backward and socially downtrodden. This community is found, particularly, in Bargarh, Barpali, Bijepur, Bhatli, Attabira and Bhedan Block of Bargarh distt. They also reside in other parts of the State. The Bheel Community enjoys all the facilities extended to SC/ST in other States but so far they are deprived of the same in Orissa because this community has not been enlisted in the List of Tribals. The Orissa State Tribal Advisory Council has in the meantime endorsed the demand of the Bheel Community to be recognized as a tribal community and accordingly, the State Govt, vkle its letter No. 33302 dated 24th august, 2007 has recommended to the Ministry of Tribal Affair, Govt, of India to give recognition to the Bheel Community of Orissa as a Tribe. But the matter is still pending with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs thereby depriving the Bheel Community of Orissa of all the benefits they ought to get. I would, therefore, urge upon the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to expeditiously consider the matter and enlist the Bheel Community of Orissa as a Scheduled Tribe.