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Title: Need to allot sufficient land in Mumbai, Maharashtra for setting up of a suitable memorial in honour of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGPUR): Madam, I draw the attention of this House to the situation developing in the State of Maharashtra owing to the denial of rightful demand of the people regarding the allotment of 12-1/2 acres of land at "Chaitya Bhoomi" for a suitable memorial to be set up in Honour of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. All over Maharashtra, people are resorting to various kinds of agitational methods. In fact, they have already encroached upon the Indu Mill land and have threatened not to vacate till the Government formally allot the entire land for the purpose.

Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar spent his whole life fighting against social discrimination and untouchability. He fought for the political rights and social freedom for India's depressed classes and encouraged them to lead a life of dignity and self respect.

The principles of humanity and social justice as advocated by Dr. Ambedkar have not only improved the socio-economic condition of millions in our country but also has been a great source of inspiration for all the marginalized and socially deprived people in the world. His contribution to the making of the Constitution is unparalleled.

Dr. Ambedkar attained Mahaparinirvan on 6th December, 1956 at Dadar in Mumbai- the place where his cremation ceremony was performed is known as "Chaitya Bhoomi". Millions of people still continue to visit this place to pay their homage to this pioneer soul of the country even after 55 years of his demise on his birth and death anniversaries which is a unique example in the world.

The Government of India has recently announced its decision to allot 4 acres of land adjoining to Chaitya Bhoomi in the premises of Indu Textile Mill, owned by National Textile Corporation, to set up a memorial in honour of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. But the people are demanding the entire land to be utilized for the erection of a suitable memorial dedicated in remembrance of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. In fact, both the Houses of the Maharashtra Legislature have unanimously adopted a Resolution requesting the Central Government for the allocation of the entire land. It is an issue concerning not only a particular community but the sentiments of the entire nation are emotionally involved.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Hon'ble Prime Minister kindly to direct the authorities concerned to meet the genuine demand of the people and have the entire land of 12-1/2 acres allotted for setting up of a suitable memorial in honour of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.