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Title: Need to take steps for inclusion of Veerashaiva/Linga Balijas community of Andhra Pradesh in the Central list of Other Backward Classes.

SHRI SURESH KUMAR SHETKAR (ZAHEERABAD): I would like to draw the attention of the Government regarding the request for Inclusion of Veerashaiva Lingayats/Linga Balijas of Andhra Pradesh in the Central List of OBC. I would like to state that the Veerashaiva Lingayats of A.P. have filed representation before the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC), New Delhi for inclusion of Veerashaiva Lingayats/Linga Balijas in the Central List of OBCs (NCBC). During the last hearing held on 6.2.2002, they have impressed upon the Commission to include this community in Central OBCs list. The State Committee of BC Welfare Association did not raise objection, and further recommended for inclusion of Veerashaiva Lingayats/Linga Balijas in the Central List and to give educational benefits. However, as this community was not included in the A.P. State Commission, they were informed during the said hearing to approach the National Commission only after inclusion of their community in the State List. Later, the A.P. State Commission for BCs after due process has recommended to the State Government for inclusion of this community in the list of BCs of A.P. and accordingly, the State Government had included Veerashaiva Lingayats/Linga Balijas in the list of BCs.

As suggested by NCBC on earlier hearing this community, accordingly, submitted a representation on 18.8.2010 to include this community in the Central List of BCs. To their surprise, they were supplied with the letter dated 6.2.2012 from NCBC informing the community that the representation for inclusion of Veerashaiva Lingayats in the Central OBC List cannot be considered as the request was already rejected on 4.7.2002. I state that the enquiry held on 6.2.2002 at Hyderabad for inclusion of this community in the Central OBC list was inconclusive and their representation was kept in abeyance as this community was not included in the State List of BCs by that time. Hence, the authorities ought not to have rejected their representation.

In view of the above facts and circumstances, I earnestly request the Hon'ble Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment to recommend for inclusion of Veerashaiva Lingayats/Linga Balijas of Andhra Pradesh in the Central List of OBCs.