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Title: Need to include Jats in the Central list of OBCs.

SHRIMATI SHRUTI CHOUDHRY (BHIWANI-MAHENDRAGARH): I would like to draw the kind attention of the House regarding inclusion of Jat community in the Central List of OBCs, irrespective of religion, region i.e. Hindu, Muslim and Sikh in the country.

It is well-known that this community is struggling for this purpose for the past few years. Jats are a very hardworking community that have fought with great bravery and made supreme sacrifices for the country in pre and post Independence history of our country. The community contributed a lot and continues to do so by bringing laurels to the Nation while serving in large numbers in our Defence and Para-military Forces. Jat athletes especially from Haryana have excelled in various National and International sports bringing innumerable accolades to the nation. An agrarian community, the contribution of its farmers to the country has been immense. However, this community remains a socially, educationally and economically, backward section as 95% of their population live in the rural areas, where the standard of education is not yet up to the desired level. As a result, they continue to depend on farming as a means of livelihood with most of the farmers under serious debt due to reduction in land holdings for many reasons such as breaking up of joint family systems and increase of population etc. These social and economic pressures have had a detrimental impact on the progress of the community which has been unable to keep pace with our modern times. Hence, there is a dire need of extension of OBC status to the Jat Community at the Central and State levels from the social justice point of view. Jats have been included in OBC list of State. Jats of Rajasthan are included in OBC list at Central level, but, two districts namely Bharatpur and Dhoipur have been excluded from this list and similarly, Jats of U.P., Uttrakhand, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Bihar and M.P have been included in the State List of OBC, but have not been considered for the Central List. Govt. of Haryana has already taken a decision in-principle for giving a "Special Backward Caste" status to Jats, but the same has not been done at the central level.

Hence, I would like to humbly urge upon the Hon'ble Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment, to take necessary action in the matter and deliver justice to the community by its inclusion in the Central List of OBCs.