

## Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to include Dhangar community of Maharashtra in Scheduled Tribes list - Laid.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE (BARAMATI): The Dhangars, shepherd community residing in Western Maharashtra and Marathwada, constitute roughly 9% of the state's population. Currently the Dhangars are included in Vimukta Jati & Nomadic Tribes (VJNT) under Nomadic Tribe category, who enjoy only 3.5 per cent reservation quota. This reservation quota for Dhangars is meagre compared to their population of around one crore and their socio economic backwardness in Maharashtra. The Dhangad community in states like Madhya Pradesh are entitled to ST reservation quota. Though Dhangars of Maharashtra are same as the Dhangad community in other states, they are repeatedly being denied Scheduled Tribes status. Ahead of the 2014 Assembly elections, the Centre has promised ST status to Dhangars. The state government of Maharashtra had also recommended to the Centre to include the Dhangar community of Maharashtra in the Scheduled Tribes list, as early as 1966 and 1979. Hence, I urge the Government to amend the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Order to include Dhangars in the Scheduled Tribes list.