

The Government in 1979 launched the project at Chiroli as the site was selected considering the cost benefit factor. But later on, the said project was stalled and the site was changed to Pujharipali. The farmers are opposed to setting up of a project at Pujharipali and instead they want the project to come up at Chiroli.

Farmers are facing great difficulties due to lack of irrigation facilities in the whole of the area. I urge upon the Government to provide adequate financial assistance to the Orissa Government to complete the Chiroli Dam Project at the earliest.

**(iv) Need for formation of Statutory Development Boards for Marathwada and Vidarbha regions of Maharashtra**

DR. VENKATESH KABDE (Nanded): Marathwada and Vidarbha are backward regions of Maharashtra State. These areas have remained backward and neglected in terms of industrial, educational and overall development. The Maharashtra State Assembly and Legislative Council have unanimously recommended in 1984 formation of Statutory Development Boards for Marathwada and Vidarbha as per provisions of Article 371(2) of the Constitution of India. A similar recommendation has been made for backward region of Konkan. The Boards have not come into existence even after six years of recommendations of the Maharashtra Government to the Union Government. Recently, the hon. Prime Minister and hon. Home Minister have made public pronouncements in Nagpur and Bombay respectively that these Boards will be formed in the near future. May I request the Union Government to expedite Cabinet decision to form the Statutory Boards and fulfil the long standing demands of these regions. A suitable amendment to the Constitution may be undertaken to include provisions of Board for Konkan under Article 371(2) of the Constitution.

[Translation]

**(v) Need to retain Scheduled Tribe Status of Manjhi tribe of Madhya Pradesh**

SHRI BABURAO PARANJPE (Jabalpore): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while kir community has been declared as tribal community in some districts of Madhya Pradesh, Manjhi, Majhwar and Vjihwar communities have been declared tribal communities in the entire state of Madhya Pradesh in terms of statutory orders 1956 and 76.

Through the notifications of the Madhya Pradesh Government issued during the period from 1982 to 1985 Manjhi and Kir tribes are being deprived of the material benefits available to them by virtue of their belonging to these tribes by declaring them backward classes equivalent and synonyms of those belonging to fisher men sub communities known as Dhiwar, Kewat and Kahar etc.

Indian caste system is based on birth and ones occupation. A community may be known by several names. According to the judgment of High Court, Madhya Pradesh, Jabalpore delivered on 14.2.89, the petitioners belonging to fisher men community admittedly belong to Manjhi tribe. Their certificates are valid and the order does not permit for making any distinction about them. Madhya Pradesh Government defines Manjhi as backward class while it defines Majhi as tribe. But in both the English and Hindi versions of the schedule relating to tribes both these words have been used for one and the same serial member and community.

In the article titled 'Majhwar' of the Thesis titled 'The tribals of Madhya Pradesh' published by the Madhya Pradesh administration, the communities of majhwar and majhi have been recognised as one community i.e. fisher boatman tribe. There is no difference between Manjhi and Majhi. Dictionaries of all the languages define Manjhi as a