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Title: Regarding release of socio-economic and caste census-2011-Laid.

**SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE (BARAMATI):** The Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011 is yet to be published by the Centre. Because of a lack of empirical data on OBCs, 5 OBC reserved seats in Maharashtra were challenged in the High Court in 2017 and later in the Supreme Court. The Chief Minister of Maharashtra on 1st August 2019 has written to the Centre requesting the release of SECC, which was to be produced within 8 weeks in the Supreme Court. But the Centre did not respond. Thereafter, the Supreme Court in its judgement on 4th March 2021, held that the validity of reservation for OBCs cannot be justified without empirical evidence of their backwardness. Because of the lack of empirical data on caste, nearly 56,000 elected OBC representatives in Maharashtra and more than 9 lakh OBC representatives across India, face the danger of losing democratically elected reserved seats. Therefore, I urge the Centre to release SECC 2011 to States.