

Regarding inclusion of certain castes in the Central List of OBCs

SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU (SRIKAKULAM): Thank you, Chairman, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to speak in Zero Hour.

I would like to raise the issue of inclusion of five communities, especially from northern Andhra, in the Central List of OBCs. These communities are ? Turpu Kapu, Sistakaranam, Sondhi, Kalinga Vysyas, and Arvala. Ever since I have become the Member of Parliament, I have been trying to get this done. In 2015, for this very issue, along with the representatives from these communities, I met the Prime Minister. On numerous occasions, I met with Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment and also the National Commission for Backward Classes.

Ever since the formation of Mandal Commission in 1979, all these five communities have been fighting for their right to be included in the Central List of OBCs. If you look at their situation right now also, eight out of ten families in these communities are still reeling under poverty. Every day, they have to face very difficult challenges to compete equally with other communities in their society. Specially after the continuous pursuing, on 13th September, 2023 under the chairmanship of Gangaram Ahir ji, who is the Chairman for NCBC, a public hearing has been conducted in Delhi. All the representatives from these communities came to Delhi. They clearly explained their status. They explained the position that they are in right now. The NCBC has also reacted positively and whatever necessary information was supposed to come from the State Government, that has also been submitted to the NCBC, which has positively taken this appeal for being included in the Central List of OBCs and forwarded it to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

My demand, through you, Sir, to the Central Government is to include them. The ball is now in the court of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. They have to take the final step and give them justice, give them their rightful opportunities for education, employment, and the right to fight in the society. With this, I conclude my demand, Sir.

Thank you.

12.52 hrs