

**Regarding introduction of readjustment of Representation of Scheduled Tribes in Assembly Constituencies of the State of Goa Bill, 2024 in view of welfare of ST Community**

**CAPTAIN VIRIATO FERNANDES (SOUTH GOA):** Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I come from South Goa but I want to speak for the whole of Goa.

Today, whatever Goa is, it is because of the hard work put in by a lot of people, and among them is the ST community, which has got Gawda, Kunbi, Velip, and Dhangars. They are still to be recognised. Today, ten per cent of them form Goa's population, and they are crying for their rights. They want to be recognised. They also reached out to the Central Government, and in March, 2024, the hon. Prime Minister promised the community. In the Cabinet meeting, which was held in March, 2024, the Readjustment of Representation of Scheduled Tribes in Assembly Constituencies of the State of Goa Bill, 2024 was approved.

My humble request is that the Bill should be introduced at the earliest, and also, kindly give justice to the Scheduled Tribe communities of Goa.