

## **Need to include Beda Budaga Jangam community in the list of Scheduled Castes**

**DR. BYREDDY SHABARI (NANDYAL):** Thank you, Chairperson, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. I would like to talk about the long pending issue regarding inclusion of Beda Budaga Jangam in the State of Andhra Pradesh into Schedule Caste category.

Sir, as we speak, Beda Budaga Jangam is the most downtrodden community in our State. These people are the people who sing folk songs called Burrakathalu in our language. They are not even allowed entry into the villages. They are called or welcomed into the villages only when there is a death in the village just to entertain the departed by their songs. While living beings do not honour them, the departed ones honour these people.

During 1976, the Government of India has included them into SC category wherein they had opportunities in education, employment, and also in welfare schemes until 2008. But afterwards, and also after bifurcation of the State, the Government of Andhra Pradesh, in the pretext that there is no Beda Budaga Jangam community in the State of Andhra Pradesh, has changed the category of these people from SC to OC category. As a result, these people lost all the opportunities.

Sir, I would like to bring to your kind attention that in 2017 a Committee was appointed to study this issue. In 2019 and 2023, a Resolution was also passed by the Legislative Assembly and the Council of Ministers in Andhra Pradesh. ....  
*(Interruptions)*

Sir, these Beda Budaga Jangam people deserve all the respect, dignity, and opportunities. I request the hon. Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment that these people who have been given SC category status in the States of Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Telangana, should get the same status in Andhra Pradesh also. I would, therefore, request the Government to give justice to these people of Andhra Pradesh. Thank you, Sir.