

Regarding inclusion of Veerashaiva Lingayats in the list of OBCs

SHRI SURESH KUMAR SHETKAR (ZAHIRABAD): Hon'ble Chairperson, Madam, I humbly request the Government of India to include Veerashaiva Lingayats (Linga Baliya) of Telangana State in the Central OBC List under Group-D. Veerashaiva Lingayats (Linga Baliya) living in the Telangana State are socially, educationally and economically most backward and most of the people hardly have proper education. They are unable to pursue any further higher studies. Considering these pitiable conditions and their social backwardness, the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh State Government included Veerashaiva Lingayats in the State OBC List during the year 2009. The National Commission for Backward Classes has included 54 castes throughout the country and they are pending for Cabinet approval for a long period. After formation of Telangana State, the Government has adopted the existing list of Backward Classes and issued GO in the year 2015 in which Veerashaiva Lingayats (Linga Baliya) are in the State OBC List. Thereafter, the Government of Telangana has requested the National Commission for Backward Classes for inclusion of Veerashaiva Lingayat community along with other communities in the Central OBC List in the year 2016.

Hon. Madam, the above issue has been pending for the past 15 years and the Veerashaiva Lingayat community and others, who are already in the State OBC List, are suffering a lot and unable to get the benefit of OBC, which is directly affecting them educationally as well as economically. Therefore, it is my humble submission to the Government of India to do the needful as it would benefit lakhs of people from Lingayat community and help them to meet the growing standards of education as well their living needs. Finally, my submission is to include Veerashaiva Lingayat community in Telangana in OBC List as early as possible.