

Regarding problem of Koliwada in Mumbai

PROF. VARSHA EKNATH GAIKWAD (MUMBAI NORTH-CENTRAL): Hon. Madam Chairperson, today I rise to raise an issue related to Koliwada and Gaonthaan in Mumbai area. The Kolis and Agaris are the original and first inhabitants of the Mumbai region. They have been living in Mumbai for the last 400 years. They are engaged in their community profession and have got their own houses here. These villages are following the old tradition and they are called city villages.

There are about 189 Gaonthans and 36 Koliwadas in Mumbai region. But, in the newly designed development plan, only 52 Gaonthaan and 22 koliwadas are included. These areas are being surveyed under the Slum Rehabilitation Scheme and they are strongly opposing it. These sons of the soil and original dwellers of the land should get their rights and justice should be done to them. These colonies should be mapped and the borders should be fixed. These colonies must be included under the development plan so that they can get legal protection.

The process of declaring these koliwadas as a slum should be stopped immediately. Thank you.