

Regarding mistaken and unjust granting of OBC status to ?Dhobhi? caste to deprive of their actual Scheduled Caste status

SHRI SURESH KUMAR SHETKAR (ZAHIRABAD): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

The ?Dhobi? caste is also called Rajaka or Chakali, which is in the Scheduled Caste List in 17 States. On the other side, in 11 States, namely, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Goa, Dhobhi caste is in OBC list, depriving them of Scheduled Caste reservation facilities. Their social status is similar and these people should get equal facilities. They are representing the matter before the State Government and Union Government, but nothing has been done. Every time the Ministry of Social Justice replied to take up the issue with the concerned State Government. If any report is sent, that is also returned in the name of modalities etc.

I request the Government of India to take up this issue directly and do justice to bring uniform status to Dhobhi people in the entire country. It is also brought to your notice that the profession itself amounts to untouchability. They are extending services to the society from birth to death.