

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1460
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.07.2025**

GIHAR COMMUNITY

†1460. SHRI RAKESH RATHOR:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Gihar community, a nomadic tribe residing in various States of the country and traditionally earning their livelihood through crafts and forest-related works, has been classified as Scheduled Caste in some states and Scheduled Tribe in some other States, is addressed as "Kanjar" in many States, which hurts their sentiments;
- (b) whether the use of the word Kanjar for the Gihar community may be considered a castespecific derogatory word; and
- (c) if so, in view of the sentiments of the Gihar community whether the Government proposes to stop the use of the word "Kanjar" and issuing a directive to write only the word "Gihar" in certificates and documents?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE)**

(a) to (c): Kanjar community has been notified as Scheduled Caste in the states of Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Uttarakhand and in the Union Territory of Delhi. This community has not been notified as Scheduled Tribe in any of the States and Union Territories.

Government has laid down modalities for deciding claims for inclusion in, exclusion from and other modifications in the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under which the concerned State Government/ UT administration is required to initiate the proposal for modification in the lists with full justification. At present, there is no proposal from any of the State Governments/ Union Territories for substitution of word 'Kanjar' with 'Gihar'.
