

Regarding need to include Boya-Valmiki community in the ST list

DR. BYREDDY SHABARI (NANDYAL): Madam, I would like to raise the most neglected issue which is about inclusion of Boya-Valmiki community in the ST list.

Our inscriptions talk about these mighty hunters and their sole occupation of hunting which has now turned into making forest products and agriculture. They are financially and educationally backward. These people were included in the Criminal Tribes Act of 1871 leading to stigma. In 1961, the Deputy Registrar General of India also mentioned that Boya community should be included in the ST list. During 2017, under the leadership of our hon. Chief Minister, Nara Chandrababu Naidu Garu, the Legislative Assembly, the Legislative Council and also the Commission passed a resolution unanimously to include them in the ST list.

The previous YCP Government promised their inclusion and used it for political gains. It was a political gimmick they played. When in the neighbouring States such as Karnataka they enjoy ST status and in other States, they enjoy SC status, why in the State of Andhra Pradesh can they not enjoy the ST status? It is a very backward community and they are suffering in day-to-day life.

I would request the Government to introduce a Bill and do them justice. This is not political. It is a matter of justice and equality promised by our Constitution. I request the Minister and the Government to do justice to this community.