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Title: Need to include Marathi community living in Kasaragod district of Kerala in Scheduled Tribes list-Laid.

SHRI T. GOVINDAN (KASARGOD) : I would like to bring the attention of the Hon'ble Minister of Tribal Affairs towards the ongoing agitation by the Marathi community living in Kasaragod district of Kerala due to the decision of the Central Government to delete them from the Scheduled Tribes list of Kerala. Kasaragod is a backward district bordering Karnataka where this community of about 40000 people live. Their living conditions in both the border districts of Karnataka and Kerala are alike.

If we really take into account of the progress made by this community one cannot blame them for their agitation. They state that this community has been unjustifiably excluded from the STs list. The Minister of Tribal Affairs has assured the Kerala MPs that their community will not be deleted from the STs list. Kerala Government also recommended to the Central Government to retain them in the list. On the other side of the border in Karnataka the same community is included in the STs list. In Kerala this community fulfils all the criteria for their continuance in the STs list.

I would request the Central Government to include Marathi Community residing in Kasaragod district of Kerala in the STs list as was earlier immediately.