

Title: Need to include the Marati community of Kasaragod, Kerala in the list of Scheduled Tribes. - Laid.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARAGOD) : The Marati in Kasaragod (Kerala) were included in the list of Scheduled Tribes in 1956 and ever since they were legitimately enjoying all the benefits. But without any proper verification or assessment they were removed from the list in 1999. The Government of Kerala opposed it and strongly recommended their retention in the ST list. The SC/ST sub-committee of the Kerala Assembly also recommended the same. The National Commission for SC/ST, after visiting the area, took the same decision. As a result of the unjustified exclusion, the Marati students are deprived of all benefits which they were enjoying since 1956. The community is denied of all benefits including the one for house construction.

The Marati community has all the tribal characteristics – they are a primitive tribe with a distinctive culture. They are geographically isolated with no contact with other communities. Their backwardness is distinct.

I invite the attention of the concerned Minister to take urgent steps to include the Marati community of Kasaragod in the ST list.