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Title: Need to extend facilities to the children of SCs/STs community for their social, economic and educational development.

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL (VIJAYAWADA): SCs & STs have been the most depressed classes in India for thousands of years. When we got independence, our country was poor and there were only two classes – landlords and those who were landless. Then, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar as a member of Constituent Assembly helped provide constitutional guarantee and protection for abolition of untouchability and all forms of discrimination. He made provisions for reservations in education and jobs for SCs/STs. In 70's Indira Gandhiji ushered in land reforms/land distribution to bring depressed classes at par with others. Despite plethora of social security schemes, safety nets and measures, SCs/STs are still living in poverty and even today they are not being treated at par with others in society.

Hence, I request that children of SCs/STs should be adopted by Government as 'State Child' right from their birth and it may be ensured that they get education, healthcare and skills to stand up with dignity and self-reliance. This message must go all over India. The State and Union Governments should ensure education, boarding and lodging to 'State Child' and guarantee that they pursue education of their choice. Every 'State Child' should be provided with Health Card entitling him/her cashless treatments in private/corporate hospitals till such time he/she gets proper employment. These measures would help 'State Child' to come up in life and become equal in society. Issues of socio-economic inequalities and lack of opportunities for India's depressed classes can effectively be addressed through this measure.