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Title: Need to include Badaga tribe of Nilgiris district in Tamil Nadu in the list of Scheduled Tribes.

SHRI S. SEMMALAI (SALEM): Badagas of Nilgiris District Tamil Nadu are considered as Hill people. Their devotion and tradition reflects the ancient tribal characteristic. Badagas have their ancient dialect called as 'Badugu'. They do not have any script for 'Badugu'. Badugu dialect is the cultural identity of their community on the Hills. In the census of 1931 Badagas were classified as Tribe. There is an urgent need to include them in the list of Scheduled Tribes. State Government of Tamil Nadu has written a letter to the Central Government in this regard in 2003. A letter has again been written on 28.7.2011 to Hon'ble Prime Minister for the inclusion of Badagas in the list of Scheduled Tribe. This is an issue which has been pending for a long time. The views of the Tamil Nadu Government has also been obtained. Considering the representation of the said community and the request of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, I appeal to the Central Government to take immediate action for the inclusion.