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Title: Need to improve the social, educational and economic condition of SCs/STs in the country.

SHRI R. DHRUVANARAYANA (CHAMRAJANAGAR): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the social, educational and economic conditions of SC/STs in the country. As per the reports of the National Human Rights Commission, 37 per cent dalits are living below poverty line, 54 of dalit children are under-nourished, 45 per cent dalits are illiterates and 33 per cent dalit households do not have basic facilities. Further, public health workers refused to visit dalit homes in 33 per cent of villages and dalits were prevented from entering police stations in 27.6 per cent of villages in the country. Dalit children had to sit separately while eating in 37.8 per cent of Government schools. Dalits did not get mail delivered to their homes in 23.5 per cent of villages. Dalits were denied access to water sources in 48.4 per cent of villages because of segregation and untouchability practices. Literacy rate for dalit women is as low as 37.8 per cent.

Even though our UPA Government has launched several pro-poor and pro-dalit programmes, but the implementation of these programmes is not done by the State Governments as per the guidelines. So, I urge upon the Central Government to take necessary steps to improve the social, educational and economic conditions of the SC/STs.