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Title: Need to take urgent steps for the welfare of fishing community in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI RAJAIAH SIRICILLA (WARANGAL): I would like to draw the attention of the Government regarding the dire need to take urgent steps for the overall welfare of fishing community not only in my Warangal Parliamentary Constituency but all over Andhra Pradesh.

As the Government is well aware that the demand of Gangaputhra Community to include them in the list of SCHEDULED TRIBES on par with other States, was accepted in principle by the then Prime Minister Smt. INDIRA GANDHI. But it is still pending for the last 43 years. The Bill should be presented in Parliament without any delay. Gangaputhras come under Backward Community in BC-A (SL.No-I) . The other community people like MUDIRAJULU/TENUGU are illegally obtaining Gangaputhra Community certificates and claiming admissions in institutions and getting Employment in State & Central Governments. Strict verification should be made and their illegal certificates should be cancelled. Instructions may be given to the Collectors and MROs concerned to take care while issuing caste certificates. The fishing ponds and tanks like water bodies which are under various managements should be brought under Fisheries Department and should be given only to local fisheries societies registered on nominal lease. The lease facility on nominal fees should be provided only to registered fishermen societies. Every year, the lease rate is being enhanced by 10%. It should be stopped. The Ex Gratia payment to the deceased family members of fishermen who die in accident during fishing should be enhanced to Rs. 5 Lakhs.

I, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture through the Chair to kindly take immediate necessary steps to protect the overall interests of the fishing community without any delay.