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Title: Regarding including Valmiki community in the list of Scheduled Tribes.

SHRI B. SENGUTTUVAN (VELLORE): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

The Valmiki Community is prevalent throughout India. In almost all the Northern States of India, they are categorized as a Scheduled Caste. In Southern States of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, it is categorized as a Scheduled Tribe. Unfortunately, in Tamil Nadu, they fall in the category of backward classes.

Prominent people of the community met honourable Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and made a representation to include them in the category of Scheduled Tribes. Honourable Puratchi Thalaivi Amma directed to conduct a deep study. The Directors of Tribal Research Centre, Ooty have arrived at the conclusion after a deep study that the Valmiki Community possesses five distinctive tribal characteristics, namely, primitive traits, distinct culture, shyness of contact, geographical isolation and social or economic backwardness and recommended that they be included in the list of Scheduled Tribes. Accordingly, the State Government has informed the Central Government to include them in the list of Scheduled Tribes.