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title: Need to recognize Kalanga Caste as a Scheduled Tribe in the state of Odisha.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Madam, I rise to raise an issue relating to recognition of a caste in Odisha called Kalanga caste.

Kalanga caste is prevalent in Maharashtra. They are there in Chhattisgarh and they are also in Madhya Pradesh. The Kalanga caste people have represented before the State Government since long and they want to be included as Scheduled Tribes. The Odisha Government has also recommended Kalanga caste to be included as per the norms as it is required as Scheduled Tribe since 2009 and repeatedly the Odisha Government has been pursuing it but the situation is such that until and unless the Registrar of Census recognizes that and sends it to the Government of India, the Government of India also cannot proceed in that manner. That is why, I am raising this matter to draw the attention of the Government that here is a case where these people from this caste reside in Bargarh, Bolangir and Sundargarh districts which are adjacent to Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and part of Telangana. They are forest dwellers. They are ancient tribals.

In our neighbouring States like Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra, Kalanga caste is included in the Scheduled Tribe category. In the state of Chhattisgarh, Kalanga caste is included along with Gonds Tribals and in the State of Maharashtra, they are included with Gonds at serial number 18 and in the nearby other States also, they are included in the Scheduled Tribe category. But in Odisha they are debarred because they are not included in that list that has been notified earlier.

Since 2009, the Odisha Government has recommended their caste to be included as Scheduled Tribe. My request to the Government of India is that it should take urgent steps so that Kalanga caste is not debarred from the benefits that every Scheduled Tribe is enjoying in Odisha and in this country. Thank you.

**12.35 hours**

**SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS.....Contd**