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Title: Need to include 'Kunchitiga' caste of Karnataka in the Central List of Other Backward classes.

SHRI S.P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA (TUMKUR): I would like to draw the kind attention of the Hon'ble Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment about the need to include "Kunchitiga" caste/community in the Central List of Other Backward Classes in Karnataka State. The "Kunchitiga" Caste people are socially, educationally and economically backward. The community constitutes small and marginal farmers. Some are sheep rearers and others are agricultural labourers. They are largely concentrated in drought-prone areas and non-irrigated areas. The "Kunchitiga" caste was included in the State List of Other Backward Class in Karnataka since 1977 and even in earlier orders of erstwhile Mysore State Government, under category 3A at SI. No.1(I). However, in the Government of India order issued in 1993, based on the recommendations of Mandal Commission, this caste has been left out with reference to Karnataka State, despite it was part of backward classes for decades in the State. So far, no Backward Classes Commission in Karnataka State has conducted the socio-education and economic survey of the people belonging to "Kunchitiga" caste separately and instead, this caste has been considered as synonym/sub-caste of Vokkaliga. As a result, the Kunchitigas living in rural and urban areas are deprived of the benefits of reservation in recruitments made in Government of India and also in admission to educational institutions. The Karnataka Government has also recommended the inclusion of "Kunchitiga" caste in the Government of India List of Other Backward Classes in Karnataka.

Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to include this "Kunchitiga" caste in the Central List of Other Backward Classes in Karnataka State on top priority basis.