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Title: Need to implement recommendations of Justice Singhu Committee to extend welfare schemes to the poor people of forward castes.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to invite the attention of the hon. House, through you, to the dilemma of the people belonging to the forward communities who are economically backward and living below the poverty line. They are not having reservation in education or employment as in the case of OBC, SC, ST and minorities. They are deprived of scholarships, fellowships or interest-free education loans. Many of the welfare schemes announced and implemented by Central and State Governments for the people below poverty line are not applicable to poor people from forward communities, owing to the community they belong to. The organisations of forward communities and civil society organisations are arguing the case of economically poor people belonging to forward communities. The financial backwardness is pulling them down and they are deprived of proper education. They are facing marginalization in almost all walks of life. A responsive Government and civil society cannot shut their eyes towards the dismal situation of any category of people.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in order to tide over the situation, we have to ensure that the people of forward communities get equal opportunities in education and employment. For finding a solution of the problem, the UPA Government had set up a commission to study the problems of forward communities under the chairmanship of Justice Singhu and the report is with the Government now. The recommendations of the Justice Singhu Commission may be considered and implemented at the earliest.

A corporation for the development of forward communities may be set up at national level on the lines of the Corporation for the Development of Forward Communities established by the Government of Kerala. Through the said Corporation, several development schemes like, educational scholarships, fellowships, education loans, vocational training, self-employment programmes, grants assistance for marriages, etc. can be implemented. This will be a great support to the economically poor people belonging to forward communities.

Sir, Nair Service Society in Kerala demanded to establish a Forward Community Development Corporation at national level. This is a long pending demand of Nair Service Society in Kerala.