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Title: Need for inclusion of Narikuravar community in the list of Scheduled Tribes.

SHRI S.R. VIJAYA KUMAR (CHENNAI CENTRAL): Narikuravar who are from ancient tribal community in Tamil Nadu were predominantly hunters. They are nomadic and extremely poor. They constitute one of the most deprived and vulnerable communities in Tamil Nadu. Though there had been some changes in the lifestyle of Narikuravars over a period of time, their social and economic status is not sound. At present, just one woman from the community holds the post of Forest Range Officer in Chennai.

In 1965, the Lokur Committee appointed by the Central Government had recommended that the Narikuravar alias Kuruvikkarar community be given ST status. Further, the Tribal Research Centre in Ooty, after extensive research, established that the Narikuravars are tribes. Even the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had written many a letter to the then Prime Minister on the issue. However the demand is yet to be fulfilled and Narikuravars are not extended the facility of ST status till date.

So, I urge upon the Union Government to extend the ST status to Narikuravars who deserve all the constitutional protection and their inclusion in the list of STs. They urgently need to be provided all the constitutional guarantees envisaged by Article 342 of the Constitution of India to enable them to lead a life of equality and dignity along with other citizen of the country.