

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to confer 'Bharat Ratna' posthumously on Mahatama Jyotiba Phule and Savitribai Phule.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE (BARAMATI): Mahatama Jyotiba Phule and his wife, Savitri Bai Phule occupies a unique position among the social reformers of Maharashtra. Jyotiba Phule revolted against the unjust caste system under which millions of people had suffered for centuries. He was also a champion of women education. Alongwith his wife, Jyotibha Phule set up India's first school for girls in 1848. Phule also championed marriage of widows and challenged the exploitative agriculture revenue system. In 1873 Phule formed Satyashodhak Samaj to enlighten people on rational thinking and social reforms. I would like to raise the matter in the House, asking the centre to posthumously award a "Bharat Ratna" for social reformer Mahatma Jyotiba Phule and his wife Savtiribai Phule.

The CM of Maharashtra, Mr Devendra Fadanvis had also written to the Central Government about the same earlier in 2015.