

Sixteenth Lok Sabha

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Title: Need to consider reservation for Scheduled Castes and Tribes in Private Sector jobs.

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD): The Government extends reservations for historically marginalized Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in government jobs and educational institutions. This has improved the economic and educational status of SCs and STs. As per Population Census Data, gap in literacy rate between total population and SCs has reduced from 22.2% (1981) to 6.9% (2011). For the STs, the gap has reduced from 27.22% (1981) to 14.03% (2011).

However, NSSO data has shown that the share of SCs and STs in private enterprises is much less than their share in the population. SC entrepreneurs and their businesses also face discrimination in accessing inputs and services. It was Dr. B.R. Ambedkar who first argued for compensatory policies in private sector in a representation to the Southbrough Committee in 1919. I would like to request the Government to consider a proposal for reservation of SCs and STs in the private sector to correct historical injustices.