

Sixteenth Lok Sabha

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Title: Need to include 'Dhangars' in the list of Scheduled Tribes, provide reservation to denotified Pardhi tribe and accord OBC status to Lingayat community.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE (BARAMATI): Dhangars of Maharashtra (though same as Dhangad community in other states), are repeatedly denied ST status. Ahead of 2014 Assembly elections, Centre had promised ST status to Dhangars. Pardhi or Takari tribe were tagged as criminal tribe by the British, through their notification in the Criminal Tribes Act, 1871. Though after Independence, they were denotified and named as nomadic tribe, they continue to be discriminated as thieves. The Maharashtra Government has recognised the backwardness of Lingayat community when it included 10 sub-castes of Lingayats into OBC category, but left out other sub-castes which are equally backward. Hence to ensure real integration and upliftment of members of above communities into society, I urge the Government to include Dhangars in Scheduled Tribes list, provide reservation to denotified Pardhi tribe, and accord OBC status to the entire Lingayat community, so that they are eligible for reservation in Government jobs' and education.