

**Problems Faced by Migrated SC/ST  
Tamilians in getting Caste Certificates in  
Maharashtra**

SHRI P. SOUNDARARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I rise to draw the attention of the Government towards the difficulties faced by thousands of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people of Tamil Nadu origin who are settled in Mumbai for generations. There are over 50,000 people in Dharavi alone. They are domiciles of Maharashtra. A Majority of families have been living there for more than 50 years, but unfortunately these SC and ST people are not getting the benefits and privileges admissible to SCs/ STs.

It is a long-time demand. These poor people have been requesting the State Government and the Central Government for issuing Caste/Tribe certificates to them.

Adidraavidar, Parayar, Pallar, Arunthathiyar, Chakkilian and Devindra Kulathan are some of the castes listed in the Constitution (Scheduled Caste) Order, 1950 with respect to the State of Tamil Nadu. The people belonging to these castes are the aboriginals of Tamil Nadu. Castes like Chamar, Mochi, Sambavar and Samagara, prevalent in Maharashtra are listed in the Schedule pertaining to that State. But these castes are also included in the schedule pertaining to Tamil Nadu because basically they belong to one class, the oppressed class, though their names are different. But, unfortunately, the Government of Maharashtra has not yet reciprocated the generosity by issuing caste certificates to the SC and ST people of Tamil Nadu. As a result, they are not in a position to claim any privileges in respect of housing, education for their children, job opportunities, etc., granted under the provisions of the Constitution. When the difficulties faced by the SC and ST people were brought to the notice of the Union Government fifteen years ago, the Ministry of Home Affairs of the

Union Government issued an order. No. BC-160/4/1/82-SC & BCD-1 dated the 18th November, 1982, to all the Chief Secretaries of all the State Governments and the Union Territories directing the authorities to issue SC and ST certificates to those who have migrated from other States on production of a caste certificate of their parents from the State of origin. Even this direction has not been complied with. In addition to that, the hon. Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Gopinath Munde, while addressing the Tamil Nadu Adi Dravida Social Justice Conference held in Dharavi on 16th September, 1996, had assured that steps would be taken to issue caste certificates to the SC and ST Tamilians living in Mumbai. That assurance remains to be fulfilled.

India is one nation and all the Indians are citizens of this country. We do not have dual citizenship. Article 19 of the Constitution gives freedom to all the citizens to move freely throughout the territory of India and to reside and settle in any part of the territory of India. But the SCs, the STs and the OBCs are denied their rights and privileges on their migration to another State. I feel it is a violation of the Constitution. I appeal to this august House to join with me in pleading with the Centre to remove this anomaly and to help the SC, ST and OBC people to get their due. Since the dalits of Tamil Nadu origin are denied their rights in Mumbai, I urge upon the Government through you Sir to intervene and direct the Maharashtra Government to issue caste certificates to them without any further delay. This could be the golden jubilee gift of the Government to the SCs and STs. Thank you.

**Need for Conversion of Vedaranyam-  
Thiruvarur Line into Broad Gauge Line**

SHRI O.S. MANIAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government a grave situation threatening the livelihood of over 25,000 salt pan workers at Vedaranyam in Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu stands second in salt