

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All right. Mr. Shantaram Naik.

Need to give reservation of seats to Scheduled Tribes in Goa Assembly

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Goa): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, three Scheduled Tribes of the State of Goa, namely, Gawda, Velipo and Kunbi, have not found a place as Scheduled Tribes' communities of Goa. When the Delimitation Commission visited Goa for the purpose of deciding Assembly seats, the Census figures of these communities were not available. Since it was not available, the Election Commission, then, decided that they were helpless. Independence of Goa took place in 1961, yet, these communities who were the original settlers have still not found an honourable place in their land. The representation of seats in the Assembly is decided by the Delimitation Commission. But subsequently the U.P. High Court in a case filed before them gave directions that seats should be readjusted for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the whole country. Accordingly, a Bill was introduced in this House for this purpose. I was the Chairman of the Committee; I hurriedly prepared a report to draft the Bill. The Bill was prepared and introduced in the House; yet, the Bill has not found success as it required. Subsequently, it was not taken up. The question is when the Election Commission visited Goa, at that time, could have given directions to the Census authorities in Goa to have a summary census. I had enquired of the Department in Goa, they told me that they required one month's time. "Within one month we can give you Census figures." But the Election Commission did not hear.

The BJP Government which was led by Mr. Manohar Parrikar, presently the Defence Minister, also did not cooperate. The Congress Party was the only party which gave a proper representation before the Delimitation Commission that these communities should find a place. They have got six to seven seats in Goa Assembly. Today, Goa is, perhaps, the only State where there are no representations to the Scheduled Tribe community in spite of the fact that its population is to the tune of 12 per cent. So, how can the country tolerate that these Scheduled Tribe communities of Goa have not found a place in the Constitution to be declared as the Scheduled Tribe community as required by the law?

I think this House or some authority has to take a call on this.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Your time is over. Please sit down.

SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR (Himachal Pradesh): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by my colleague.

SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by hon. colleague.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): Mr. Deputy Chairman, the hon. Member has taken my name. I would just like to bring to the notice of the hon. Member and the House that it was Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Government which granted 'Scheduled Tribes' status to these three communities.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Already granted?

SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR: The hon. Member is confused. The Constitutional Amendment was carried out in the year 2002 wherein these three communities were included as Scheduled Tribe communities, for the first time, by the then Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please listen to him.

SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR: Accordingly, the Goa Government gave them 'Scheduled Tribes' status. We were also doing the required thing. Then the Congress Government came to power at the Centre, they dismissed the then Government. Though they were ruling for eight years, they did nothing for them.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Are they treated as Tribals now?

SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR: He is raising the issue of reserving seats for the Scheduled Tribes in the State Assembly which is within the scope of the Election Commission. That will be done. But we were already doing the survey. They did not do anything. They dismissed the Government and for eight years, they did nothing in this respect. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Shantaram Naik, the Minister is saying that these three communities have already been notified as Tribals.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: That is what I am saying.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Then, what is your complaint? ...*(Interruptions)*... No, no. That is a different issue. ...*(Interruptions)*... But they are Tribals. You can take it up with him. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri D. Raja.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Sir, what he is saying is a different issue ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR: He has not understood the issue at all.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Minister is from Goa and the hon. Member is from Goa. Both are very important for us. I don't want to intervene in that.

Alleged attack on academic freedom and creativity of students in Central University, Puducherry

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I draw the attention to a serious issue, that is, growing unrest in the Puducherry Central University. Sir, the Puducherry Central University is known for its academic freedom, creativity of students and faculties, known for its social and political awareness. Currently, the Vice-Chancellor is Madam Anisha Bashir Khan. There is a Student Council. The University has been functioning in a very harmonious manner. The Student Council has brought out a magazine. The magazine has printed the photograph of Rohit Vemula. It has printed the photograph of Dabholkar Pansare Kalburgi. The magazine has expressed solidarity with the students all over the country in all campuses. Suddenly, the local ABVP and the local BJP, took up this issue and organized agitations outside. Subsequently, a pressure was brought in. I have press-cuttings. According to the media report, that magazine has been banned. Now, there are reports that the MHA has asked for some explanation. There is a fear, there is unrest in the campus. I draw the attention of the House why this is happening. When the development happened in the Hyderabad Central University, it was the same design. The ABVP raised the issue, the authorities intervened. In the JNU, the ABVP raised the issue, the local BJP raised the issue, the authorities intervened. Sedition charges have been slapped, and now, the students in the Puducherry Central University are facing a threat. I appeal to all the parties, What are we doing? Are we playing with the destiny of our students? Their destiny is the destiny of the nation. Are we playing with the destiny of the nation? This is what I would like to ask. The Government must clarify that they will not allow the situation to deteriorate in Puducherry. The Puducherry Central University is the pride of our nation. It is known for creativity ... *(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. D. Raja, your time is over ... *(Interruptions)*... The names of all the Members who associated with this should be added. But your time is over. ... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD (Karnataka): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Shri D.Raja.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU (Telangana): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Shri D. Raja.