

Vaiko (Tamil Nadu), Shri Jose K. Mani (Kerala), Shri P. Wilson (Tamil Nadu), Shri M. Shanmugam (Tamil Nadu), Smt. Phulo Devi Netam, (Chhattisgarh), Shrimati Rajani Ashokrao Patil (Maharashtra), Shri N.R. Elango (Tamil Nadu), Shri Ritabrata Banerjee (West Bengal) and Ms. Dola Sen (West Bengal).

Now, Shri Golla Baburao; Concern over less Budgetary allocation under the 'Scheme of Grant-in-Aid to Voluntary and Other Organizations Working for Scheduled Castes' run by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Concern over less budgetary allocation under the 'Scheme of Grant-in-Aid to Voluntary and other Organizations Working for Scheduled Castes' run by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

SHRI GOLLA BABURAO (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am raising a very important issue. The entire nation waits for the solution to this problem. It is about the need for a Socio-Economic Caste Census. I would like to highlight about the need for Socio-Economic Caste Census to be conducted alongside the upcoming Decennial Census. Conducting such a Census at the national level would allow the entire country to benefit from the policies based on accurate and detailed data. In fact, the Legislative Assembly of Andhra Pradesh, led by the former Chief Minister, Shri Jagan Mohan Reddy *garu*, laid a strong foundation for this in November, 2021, by passing a resolution, requesting the Central Government to take up the Socio-Economic Caste Census. But it is not taken up so far. By simply adding two questions to the upcoming Census, we can gather crucial data which will also greatly benefit the people of Andhra Pradesh. This data will provide valuable insights which will enable the implementation of targeted welfare programmes, address inequalities and ensure equitable allocation of resources. In my last speech also, I requested the hon. Finance Minister to increase the allocation to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is getting only two per cent of the total funds for the entire 80 per cent population which we have. They include the backward classes, OBCs, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, minorities, disabled welfare and senior citizens. I request the Central Government to rethink about it. First of all, they should take up the caste census. It will be very useful for them also to take up the upcoming Delimitation and allocate funds as per population in India. At the same time, Sir, it is a concern that Budget allocation for Census has been reduced, which could hinder the exercise by compromising the accuracy and effectiveness. Therefore, the Government must prioritize sufficient funding for this critical exercise and make this...(*Time-bell rings.*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Shri Golla Baburao : Shri M. Shanmugam (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha (Bihar), Shri A. A. Rahim (Kerala), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Shri Niranjana Bishi (Odisha), Shri Tiruchi Siva (Tamil Nadu), Shri N.R. Elango (Tamil Nadu), Shri Meda Raghunadha Reddy (Andhra Pradesh), Shri Subhas Chandra Bose Pilli (Andhra Pradesh) and Shri Ramji (Uttar Pradesh).

Now, Shri Ryaga Krishnaiah; Demand to Constitute a Separate Ministry for Backward Classes.

Demand to constitute a separate Ministry for Backward Classes

SHRI RYAGA KRISHNAIAH (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, it is a very important issue pertaining to 80-crore OBC population in the country. There are 93 Departments in the Central Government but, to look after OBC welfare, there is no separate Ministry or Department. There is a need to look after the welfare of OBCs and their development. There are separate Ministries and Departments for others. Recently, the Central Government formed Fisheries Department and also created Ministry of Cooperation but it has not established a separate Ministry for OBCs, who constitute more than 56 per cent of our population in the country. At the Central level, for implementing 27 per cent reservation, our beloved hon. Prime Minister gave constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes; earlier, National Backward Classes Corporation was also formed. Also, there is a Parliamentary Committee on Welfare of OBCs. There have been a number of legal disputes relating to OBC reservation and other issues.

A number of problems regarding the BC's reservations are rising frequently. In OBC list, there are beggars, denotified tribes. Some tribes are included in the OBC list. They are very poor and marginalized communities. They are not even sending their children to school. Such poorer communities are there. At this juncture, it is imperative to establish a separate ministerial department for the development of these communities. This only can facilitate special attention for the development of these communities. So, a separate ministry is essential. Almost all the State Governments have a separate ministerial department for OBC to monitor and coordinate the schemes and budget. Many problems pertaining to BCs and their reservation are coming to limelight nowadays.