

[3 December, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

decision is yet to be taken on the matter regarding Genetically Modified Foods. Thank you.

SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA (Andhra Pradesh) : Madam, I associate myself with this issue.

Request for inclusion of Gowari caste in the revised Scheduled Tribes list of Maharashtra

SHRI R.S.GAVAI (Maharashtra) : Madam, the Gowari caste is one of the important Tribes and its population throughout Maharashtra is 20 lakhs. Major portion of this Tribe lives in nine districts of Vidarbha. Similarly, about ten lakh people belonging to the Gowari caste live in Madhya Pradesh. Various Foreign and Indian sociologists, anthropologists, research scholars and authorities have, after a study, accepted that the Gowari caste is one of the component elements of the tribal population and have given the findings that Gowari caste is a Tribe. Originally, in the British regime, the Gowari caste was listed in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra State and the districts of Madhya Pradesh as Aboriginal Tribes and they were also availing of all the tribal facilities.

But due to ignorance most of the people of the Tribe could not avail of any facilities. The Maharashtra Government has made strong recommendation to the Central Government after research and detailed study of the backwardness of the people belonging to the Gowari caste stating that the Gowari caste is Tribe and it should be included in the Scheduled Tribes list.

I, therefore, request the Government of India to take steps to include the Gowari caste in the revised Scheduled Tribes list of Maharashtra and extend tribal facilities to them.

SHRI DATTA MEGHE (Maharashtra) : Madam, I associate myself with this Special Mention.

Request for starting Hamidnagar-Punpun Irrigation Project

श्री विजय सिंह यादव (बिहार) : उपसभापति महोदया, मैं आज आपके माध्यम से केंद्र सरकार का ध्यान बिहार में वर्षों से लंबित सिंचाई परियोजनाओं के निर्माण कार्य में हो रहे विलम्ब