

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 463
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 03/12/2025

INCLUSION OF FISHERMEN IN THE LIST OF STs

463 SHRI C. VE. SHANMUGAM:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the fishermen community in Tamil Nadu has been demanding to be included in the list of STs in Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has received any representation from the fishermen community of Tamil Nadu; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI DURGADAS UIKEY)

(a) to (d): Government of India on 15.6.1999 (further amended on 25.6.2002 and 14.9.2022) has laid down the modalities for deciding the claims for inclusion in, exclusion from and other modifications in Orders specifying Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes lists. As per the modalities, only those proposals which have been recommended and justified by the concerned State Government / UT Administration and concurred with by Registrar General of India (RGI) and National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) are to be considered and legislation amended. All action on the proposals is taken as per these approved modalities. The recommendation of the concerned State Government is pre-requisite to process the case further.

The proposals for inclusion in the list of Scheduled Tribes of a State or Union Territory follow certain processes as per the modalities. This is a continuous process. Proposals received from the State Government should be accompanied by an ethnographic report. The proposals are examined by the Office of the RGI and then by the NCST. In case the proposal is not recommended by the RGI, the State Governments are communicated the points raised by the RGI, so that additional information, if any, maybe furnished by the State Government. Many such proposals may therefore remain under examination at different levels.

No proposal from the State Government of Tamil Nadu for inclusion of the fishermen community is pending with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. As regards to representations of communities for their inclusion in the list of Scheduled Tribes, such representations are forwarded to the State Governments concerned as recommendation of the State Government is pre-requisite for inclusion of any community in the ST List.
