

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *194
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.02.2026

INCLUSION OF BADAGA COMMUNITY IN SCHEDULED TRIBES LIST

*194. THIRU D M KATHIR ANAND:

Will the Minister of ***Tribal Affairs*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the continuous demand to include the Badaga community of Tamil Nadu, which was recognised as an important primitive tribe till the 1931 Census, in the Scheduled Tribes list and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has received any proposal from the State Government of Tamil Nadu for inclusion of the Badaga community in the Scheduled Tribes list and if so, the details and present status thereof; and
- (c) the timeline proposed for taking a final decision in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI JUAL ORAM)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 194 for answer on 12.02.2026 raised by Thiru D M Kathir Anand regarding “Inclusion of Badaga Community in Scheduled Tribes List”

(a) to (c): 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 lists of Scheduled Tribes. As per these modalities, proposals are required to be recommended and duly justified along with an ethnographic report by the concerned State Government/UT Administration. Thereafter, the proposals are required to be concurred with by the Registrar General of India (RGI) and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) to be considered and legislation amended. All action on the proposals is taken as per these approved modalities.

The State Government of Tamil Nadu vide its letter No. 20607/CV-1/2014-17 dated 28.01.2021 sent a proposal for inclusion of 'Badaga' community in the Scheduled Tribes list of the State along with an ethnographic report of the community. The said proposal was forwarded to the ORGI for further examination and furnishing comments of the matter. The ORGI vide its letter dated 08.06.2022 did not support the proposal of State Govt. of Tamil Nadu for inclusion of "Badaga" community in ST list of the State. The comments of the ORGI were referred to State Government for furnishing justifications/additional information on the matter vide this Ministry's letter dated 13.06.2023.

A Writ Petition No.16450/2024 was filed in the High Court of Judicature at Madras seeking to issue direction to the State Government of Tamil Nadu to send proposal/justification to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for inclusion of "Badaga" community in ST list of Tamil Nadu. The Hon'ble High Court, vide Order dated 11.03.2025 has observed that the State Government has accepted the decision of the RGI and cannot compel the State Government to submit a revised proposal or otherwise and has dismissed the Petition. Nothing is pending at the level of this Ministry in this regard.
