

**Priority of the UPA Government – Reservation to Denotified
Nomadic and Semi Nomadic Tribes before Lok Sabha
Elections.**

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Since our Independence successive Central Governments have taken various measures, formulated various schemes, for the Welfare of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes since Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are identified as backward classes in our country. As a result of which people belonging to SC/STs are well safeguarded by the Constitution of India and they are getting the benefits of reservation for so many years. But there is another group that is known as Denotified Nomadic and Semi Nomadic Tribes (DNTs), who are the most backward class in our country. But this is very shameful that nobody has given attention to the plight of most backward community, Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes of the country after so many years of Independence. I am not going to blame anybody, any Government, but just to give an idea about DNTs and apprise the common people who are not aware about the present socio-economic condition of DNTs, the present status of DNTs, I thought I should write something.

Total number of DNTs population in our country is about 15 crores. Various castes all over the country come under DNT community, such as Labana, Beldar, Vadadi, Vadar, Dhanbar, Dome, Bhat, Gadia Lohar, Dhibar, Bhope, Chhara, Dasari, Atur, Jogi, Bajania, Banjara, Lodi, Rajlepar, Dhangar, Gardia, Pal,



desperate criminals by the police and public alike, and continue to be hounded as in colonial times. And by the British Government they were notified as criminal tribals.

Soon after Independence, these communities, earlier notified as criminal tribal, were denotified by the Government. This was followed by the substitution of a series of acts. After independence, various state governments have done little to restore land to the DNTs. Schemes for economic upliftment does not seem to have benefited them since in Government record only Scheued Castes and Scheduled Tribes were treated as most backward community. The rate of illiteracy among the DNTs is higher than that of Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes, malnutrition more frequent and provisions for education and health care almost negligible since most of them have remained nomadic. Above all, there is no limit to the atrocities that the DNTs have to face.

During last few decades due to the spread of communications the Banjara lifestyle has naturally altered and the tribals have had to abandon their packs of animals and take to working as labourers on building and construction projects. Despite all this, their traditional customs, manners and ceremonies have undergone little change and their migatory instinct is still intact.

Pandit Jawaharla! Nehru Ji was well aware about the plight of DNTs. So, when 3rd Five Year Plan (1952-1957) was drafted by Planning Commission, Pandit ji suggested to take measures for

recommendations were made in 3rd Five Year Plan for upliftment/development of DNTs and a separate budget provisions for upliftment of DNTs were also made. After that Government of India directed to each and every State Governments to give immediate effect for free education, scholarship after matriculation to DNTs and also suggested to take steps for upliftment and development of DNTs. Justice Venkatachailaiah Commission also recommended for special consideration about De-Notified & Nomadic Tribes to include them in the list of Scheduled Tribes or to appoint a special Commission to study about them and given them special privileges. The Denotified Tribes/Communities have been wrongly stigmatized as crime prone and subjected to highhanded treatment as well as exploitation by the representatives of law and order as well as by the General Society. The special approach to their development has been delineated and emphasized in the report of the working group for the Development of Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes in successive plans and also in the Annual Reports of the Commissioners for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the National Commissions for the Backward Classes. There are also special reports available on Denotified Tribes. Their recommendations have not received attention of successive Government for many years. After several peaceful

Renke Commission submitted its report with various recommendations to Government for consideration. The main recommendations are [i] Census of DNTs in 2011 census II, [ii] Separate Budget Provision, [iii] Housing schemes under different GOI Schemes, [iv] Special Socio-Economic Settlement Zones (SSEZS) with infrastructures, [v] Residential Schools [vi] Allocation of an appropriate percentage of Priority Sector Lending, [vii] DNT Sub Plan on the line of SSP and earmarking appropriate proportion of XI Plan [viii] Separate Finance Development Corporation [ix] Financing by State level Finance Development Corporation for employment oriented schemes [x] Bring Tanadas and Bastis of DNTs under revenue village [xi] Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes [Prevention of Atrocities] Act, 1989 be made applicable to DNTs [xii] Formation of permanent National Commission for DNTs [xiii] Creation of one more Schedule as Scheduled Denotified and Nomadic Tribes in the Constitution of India as per the proposed Bill brought by myself in Lok Sabha. [xiv] Reservation of seats for DNTs at Blocks, Talukas, Panchayats, Zilla Parishads. Municipalities, etc. [xv] Separate DNT Sub Plan, separate Ministry, separate Development Finance Commission, separate budget provision for welfare schemes. for DNTS. These are the main recommendations:

opposed this formula and he was not ready to sign the report of the Mandal Commission. So, Chairman, Mandal Commission suggested him to give a separate note as dissent note. Shri Naik in his dissent note mentioned that in OBC there are two categories, one is backward and another is most backward, he suggested not to bring the OBC of the above-mentioned two categories under one umbrella; the total quota of OBC quota should be split up - 15% reservation should be given for backward classes and 12% reservation for most backward classes. But nobody has taken cognizance of his suggestion.

It is a well known fact that many well off castes are included in OBC list due to various political compulsions. Actually whereby the well off castes amongst OBC communities are getting the reservation facilities, the actually backward downtrodden are not getting any benefit of reservation. Last year a seminar on reservation issue was conducted by National Backward Class

In recent times in Rajasthan we have seen Gujjars agitation for giving them ST status so that they can avail reservation facility. During this agitation Meenas strongly opposed the demand of Gujjars, but due to political compulsion Rajasthan Government had to give reservations and Gujjars were given separate reservation along with Gadi Lohar (Bajwaras) and the matter was settled peacefully. DNT people are also demanding separate reservation.

There are so many communities who are also demanding SC/ST status. But political situation do not permit the Government to give reservation to them though they deserve it due to their socio-

भटक्या विमुक्तांचा सामाजिक न्यायाचा लढा

माननीय पंतप्रधान डॉ. मनमोहन सिंग यांनी २२ जुलै रोजी संसदेमध्ये विश्वास दर्शक ठराव मांडला. प्रत्यक्ष मतदानाच्या वेळी मी गैरहजर होतो आणि त्या मुळे अप्रत्यक्षपणे, मी सरकार पाडण्याऐवजी सरकारला वाचविण्यासाठी मदत केली असा माझ्यावर आरोप झाला. हे सगळं मी पैशासाठी केले आहे असाही आरोप माझ्यावर ठेवण्यात आला. वस्तुस्थिती काय आहे आणि मी सरकारला मदत का केली? या बाबतीत जनतेलाही कळणे आवश्यक आहे म्हणून हा लेख प्रपंच.





हे पत्रे आहे कि पंतप्रधान गैरवैधानिक भाग्य समाजाच्या प्रदामेव्यामध्ये तत्कालीन पंतप्रधान

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