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# Bill passed to include Siddi, Parivara, Talawara in ST list

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

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**Bengaluru:** Parliament approved the long-pending demand to include the Parivara and Talawara communities in the scheduled tribe (ST) list. The bill was introduced by law and parliamentary affairs minister Pralhad Joshi in the upper house on Thursday and it sailed through. The Lok Sabha had already passed the bill.

The proposal to include the two communities in the ST list was first mooted by the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government. However, the Narendra Modi government did not con-

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sider the matter then.

In 2017, it became a poll issue during the Gundlupet and Nanjangud byelections in Chamarajanagar and Mysuru district, where the communities have a sizeable presence. It is estimated that the two communities number about 12 lakh across the state.

Since they were mostly his

constituents, Mysuru-Kodagu MP Pratap Simha pursued the matter and the Centre decided to revive the issue. Besides the two communities, the government also included the Siddi community (outside Uttara Kannada district) in the ST list.

In the Rajya Sabha, Karnataka MPs including BK Hariprasad urged the government to consider the long-standing demand of even Kodavas to be added to the ST list. However, the Union government said a population study of the community is yet to be conducted.