In a meeting of the Union Cabinet, on Wednesday, a big decision was taken regarding castes like Gond-Bharia. The Cabinet approved a proposal to include about 15 tribal communities in the Scheduled Tribes list in five states namely Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. Union Minister Arjun Munda gave this information.

With this decision, the number of Scheduled Tribes in the country has increased from 705 to 720. According to the 2011 census, the ST population in the country is 10.43 crore, which is 8.6% of the total population of the country.

During the meeting, the name of Ravidas Nagar in UP has been changed to Bhadohi. Five sub-castes of the Gond caste, Dhuria, Nayak, Ojha, Pathari, Rajgond have also been included in the Scheduled Tribes.

Union Minister Arjun Munda told the media after the approval of this decision will benefit about 1.60 lakh people of Hatti community settled in the Trans-Giri area of Sirmaur, Himachal Pradesh. Brijiya community in Chhattisgarh and Narikuravar, one of the most deprived and vulnerable communities living in the hills of Tamil Nadu will also be benefitted.

The Hatti is a community living in North India. They make their living by selling crops, vegetables, meat and wool in the small town markets i.e. Haat. The birthplace of the Hatti community is mainly spread up to the Himachal-Uttarakhand border in the basin of the Giri and Tons, both tributaries of the Yamuna. , Kodaku, Nagesia, Dhangad, Saunra, Binjhiya, Hatti caste from Himachal Pradesh Kuruvikkaran from Tamil Nadu, Betta Kuruba from Karnataka, Gond from Uttar Pradesh, Sub-castes-Dhuria, Nayak, Ojha, Pathari, Rajgond.

The government had introduced a bill related to the issue in the Lok Sabha in March. In which the proposal to give Scheduled Tribe status to Gond, Dhuria, Nayak, Ojha Pathari and

Rajgond castes of Uttar Pradesh was passed by voice vote. However, then this bill could not be passed in the Rajya Sabha. In such a situation, it was decided to pass it in the Union Cabinet.