

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Safety involves track renewal. Track renewal involves that trains are going to get affected. अगर यह समय पर इतने सालों में किया गया होता तो शायद यह समस्या अब नहीं होती।

श्री सभापति: ठीक है, धन्यवाद। श्री विवेक गुप्ता, संक्षेप में प्लीज, ताकि बाकी लोगों को भी मौका मिल सके। I don't think anybody will ask for Minister's response here afterwards because they will be losing their time.

**Need to grant Scheduled Caste status to the
Kurmi community in West Bengal**

SHRI VIVEK GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. Sir, inspired by my leader, Ms. Mamata Banerjee, I am here today to talk about the 50 lakh Kurmis in West Bengal. Sir, in the 1913 List they were part of the Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Caste List, but in 1931, mysteriously they were removed from that List. Since then, they have been ignored. Even in 1951, the master list was prepared and then they were again ignored. Sir, recently, the West Bengal Government has constituted West Bengal Kurmi Development and Cultural Board in 2017. My leader has tried, in her own way, to give them recognition and benefits. Sir, she is trying to revive the Kurmali language which is dying out and also the Jhumur dance form, which is again listed as a heritage dance form and is supposed to be protected by the Planning Commission and NITI Aayog as well. Sir, these people are mostly living around the forest areas and they have been described as tribals, but they are not getting any benefits under the Tribal Act and other benefits available to tribals. Sir, the All India Kurmi Kshatriya Mahasabha (AIKKM) which was formed in 1910, has been fighting to include the Kurmis in the Central List of Backward Classes. Sir, I would request, through you, to the Government to give them their due recognition, include them as Scheduled Caste, as my leader has demanded, and give them their due benefits so that they can also get their recognizable dues. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Vivek Gupta.

SHRIMATI ROOPA GANGULY (Nominated): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Vivek Gupta.

MS. DOLA SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Vivek Gupta.

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Vivek Gupta.