

SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATA SULATA DEO (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI BINOY VISWAM (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI M. SHANMUGAM (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

Need to include Lepcha Language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution

SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI (West Bengal): Khaamree mo, Sir. In Lepcha language, it means *namaskar*. Thank you, Sir, for allowing me to speak.

I would like to draw the kind attention of this august House that Lepcha is a Himalayish language spoken by the Lepcha people in Sikkim, and parts of West Bengal, namely, in Darjeeling and Kalimpong. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) lists Lepcha as an endangered language.

The Lepcha language is spoken in Sikkim and in Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts of West Bengal. The 1991 Indian Census counted 39,342 speakers of Lepcha. Lepcha is considered to be one of the indigenous languages of the areas in which it is spoken. The Lepcha people have their own indigenous script.

I humbly urge the august House to draw the kind attention of the hon. Prime Minister to include the long-pending demand of the Lepcha people, to include their

language in the Eighth Schedule. This will ensure preservation and growth of the rich language. Taokchhyee mo, Sir. That means, thank you.

SHRI BIKASH RANJAN BHATTACHARYYA (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI P. WILSON (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI M. SHANMUGAM (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI N.R. ELANGO (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

DR. SASMIT PATRA (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

DR. SANTANU SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI MAHESH JETHMALANI (Nominated): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

DR. V. SIVADASAN (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.