

Demand to include Ho, Sambalpuri, Saora and Mundari languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution and resolve infrastructural deficiencies of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRs) in Odisha etc.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): Sir, Odisha occupies a very special position in the tribal map of India with 62 ST communities and 13 primitive tribes. They constitute 22.43 per cent of the total State population. With this, Odisha has one of the highest percentages of tribals in India.

Sir, there is a long-standing demand of the Odisha Government to include Ho, Mundari, Bhumij, Kui and Saora languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. The exclusion of these languages denies tribal linguistic communities access to education in their native tongues, perpetuating their marginalization. For instance, the Ho language spoken by, approximately, 10 lakh tribals in Odisha and Jharkhand and the Mundari language spoken by over six lakh people of Odisha's Munda and Mundari tribes are deserving candidates for constitutional recognition. Hon. Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik, had written a letter to the Union Government in 2014 in this regard. However, the demands remain unheard. The incorporation of these languages into the Eighth Schedule will contribute significantly to their preservation and dissemination. This inclusion would catalyze various initiatives such as publication and content creation and would also establish an ecosystem conducive to research and studies focused on their preservation and promotion, fostering a robust platform for scholarly engagement in these areas.

Moreover, Sir, on September 16, 2022, hon. Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik, had also written a letter to the Union Tribal Affairs Ministry, reiterating their long-standing demand for the inclusion of 169 communities in the State's Scheduled Tribes (ST) List. In December, 2022, again, a delegation of BJD MPs met the Union Tribal Affairs Minister and demanded inclusion of all the 169 tribal communities of Odisha in the ST List. However, despite the State Government and the hon. Chief Minister's persistent requests and demands, not all the tribal communities have been included in the Constitution Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment) Act, 2024 passed in the Rajya Sabha yesterday. Only 53 have been included out of 169, which had fulfilled all the conditions and all the processes. For the remaining tribes, the hon. Chief Minister has been impressing on having joint meetings of all the involved ministries and the State Government to expedite the process. Even after the prioritization of nine proposals by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs Taskforce in 2014, many recommendations remain unaddressed. ...(*Time-bell rings*)...Sir, Odisha has

already taken initiatives in this regard by constituting Special Development Councils. Therefore, I urge the Government to look into their interests.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Dr. Amar Patnaik: Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri Sujeet Kumar (Odisha), Shrimati Sulata Deo (Odisha), Shri Niranjana Bishi (Odisha), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shrimati Mahua Maji (Jharkhand), Dr. Shantanu Sen (West Bengal) and Shri Nabam Rebia (Arunachal Pradesh).

Shri Biplab Kumar Deb -- 'Demand to Convert Agartala's Maharaja Bir Bikram (MBB) Airport into an International Airport'.

**Demand to convert Agartala's Maharaja Bir Bikram (MBB) Airport into
an international Airport**

श्री बिप्लव कुमार देब (त्रिपुरा) : महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से केंद्रीय नागर विमानन मंत्रालय को अवगत कराना चाहता हूँ कि MBB हवाई अड्डा अगरतला (त्रिपुरा) भारत के नार्थ ईस्टर्न रीजन में आने वाले यात्रियों के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण प्रवेश द्वार है। यहाँ नई टर्मिनल बिल्डिंग का उद्घाटन 4.1.2022 को माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी द्वारा किया गया था। प्राप्त जानकारी के अनुसार यहाँ व्यस्त घंटों के दौरान 1000 अंतरराज्यीय और 200 अंतरराष्ट्रीय यात्रियों को संभालने की क्षमता है। 20 चैक इन-काउंटर हैं और 3 मिलियन यात्रियों की वार्षिक क्षमता है। अगरतला - चिटगांव मार्ग पर अंतरराष्ट्रीय उड़ानों का संचालन शुरू करने के लिए राज्य सरकार ने 18.85 करोड़ रुपये की राशि का AAI को भुगतान किया है। यहाँ इंस्ट्रुमेंटल लैंडिंग सिस्टम और ग्राउंड लाइटिंग सुविधाएं मौजूद हैं।

(MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*)

रनवे की लंबाई 286 मीटर है। वित्त मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार ने दिनांक 04.01.2023 को एमबीबी हवाई अड्डे को सीमा शुल्क चेक पोस्ट घोषित कर दिया है और भारत सरकार के गृह मंत्रालय से इस संबंध में घोषणा की प्रतीक्षा है। माननीय सभापति जी, मैंने इस विषय पर माननीय नागर विमानन मंत्री जी को पत्र लिखा था, जिसके उत्तर में उन्होंने बताया कि इमिग्रेशन चेक पोस्ट का विषय गृह मंत्रालय के अधीन आता है।...(समय की घंटी)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Shri Biplab Kumar Deb: Dr. Santanu Sen (West Bengal), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala) and Shri Niranjana Bishi. Hon. Members, Question Hour.