

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by hon. Member, Shri Sant Balbir Singh: Shri Saket Gokhale (West Bengal), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Shri P. Wilson (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Shrimati Phulo Devi Netam (Chhattisgarh), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri Niranjan Bishi (Odisha), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Smt. Ranjeet Ranjan (Chhattisgarh), Shri A. A. Rahim (Kerala), Shrimati Jaya Amitabh Bachchan (Uttar Pradesh) and Ms. Dola Sen (West Bengal). धन्यवाद।

Now, Dr. Sasmit Patra on 'Demand to include languages spoken by Tribal Communities in the 8th Schedule to the Indian Constitution.'

श्री संजय सिंह: सर, मेरा भी एक Zero Hour subject था।

श्री उपसभापति: प्लीज़।

श्री संजय सिंह: सर, एक मिनट। मेरी बात सुन लीजिए।

श्री उपसभापति: यहाँ पर जो सूची में है, मैं वैसे ही नाम पढ़ रहा हूँ।

श्री संजय सिंह: मेरा Zero Hour subject 15वें नम्बर पर था।

श्री उपसभापति: मैं इस सूची के अनुसार जा रहा हूँ। ...(व्यवधान)... संजय जी, आप बैठिए। ...(व्यवधान)... पात्रा जी, प्लीज़ आप बोलें। ...(व्यवधान)... मैं इस सूची के अनुसार ही नाम पढ़ रहा हूँ। ...(व्यवधान)... प्लीज़, आप बैठें। ...(व्यवधान)... मैं इस सूची के अनुसार ही नाम पढ़ रहा हूँ। ...(व्यवधान)... प्लीज़। ...(व्यवधान)... डा. सस्मित पात्रा जी, आप बोलें।

Demand to include languages spoken by Tribal Communities in the 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution

DR. SASMIT PATRA (Odisha): Hon. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I rise today to draw the kind attention of this august House to a long pending and deeply felt demand -- inclusion of Ho, Mundari, Bhumij, Kui and Saora languages in the 8th Schedule to the Indian Constitution. These languages are not just modes of communication, they are lifeblood of millions of tribal people across multiple States. Their recognition is essential for preserving India's linguistic and cultural diversity and upholding the constitutional commitment to protect the rights of Schedule Tribes. Sir, these languages have a rich, oral and literary tradition and are spoken by large tribal

population across multiple States. 'Ho' language is spoken primarily in Odisha, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Chhattisgarh. 'Mundari' language is spoken mainly in Odisha, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Assam. 'Bhumij' language is spoken predominantly in Odisha, Jharkhand and West Bengal. 'Kui' language is spoken mainly in Odisha and some parts of Andhra Pradesh. 'Saora' language is spoken mainly in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. While Odisha is home to the largest number of speakers of these languages, their influence extends beyond State borders. These languages are spoken in Jharkhand, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Assam, Andhra Pradesh and even parts of Bihar, forming an integral part of the linguistic heritage of Eastern and Central India. Their exclusion from the 8th Schedule denies recognition, development support and constitutional protection to millions of indigenous people across multiple States. Odisha has been at the forefront of championing this cause under the leadership of former Odisha Chief Minister and Biju Janata Dal President, Shri Naveen Patnaik. The Odisha Cabinet formally approved this demand through its resolution, making it a clear policy commitment. The then Odisha Government, led by Shri Naveen Patnaik, had written multiple letters to the Government of India urging immediate action on this matter. Therefore, I strongly urge the Union Government to honour the demand of the Odisha Cabinet of the then Odisha Government and millions of tribal people across multiple States by including Ho, Mundari, Bhumij, Kui and Saora languages in the 8th Schedule to the Constitution. I conclude by saying that it is not a linguistic issue alone. It is a matter of justice, dignity, and Constitutional equality for millions of tribal brothers and sisters of India. I thank you, Sir. Jai Hind.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by hon. Member, Dr. Sasmit Patra: Shri Saket Gokhale (West Bengal), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Shri P. Wilson (Tamil Nadu), Shri Subhas Chandra Bose Pilli (Andhra Pradesh), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Shrimati Phulo Devi Netam (Chhattisgarh), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shri M. Shanmugam (Tamil Nadu), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri Niranjana Bishi (Odisha), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Shri A. A. Rahim (Kerala) and Ms. Dola Sen (West Bengal).

Now, Ms. Sushmita Dev - Concern over the delay in disbursement of pensionary benefits to Government employees.