

Seventeenth Loksabha

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**माननीय सभापति:** नियम 377 के अंतर्गत जिन माननीय सदस्यों को आज विषय प्रस्तुत करने की अनुमति दी गई है, वे कृपया अपने पाठ सभा पटल पर प्रस्तुत कर दें ।

...(व्यवधान)

Title: Regarding inclusion of Khetauri, Ghatwal-Ghatwar and others in the list of Scheduled Tribes.-Laid

**DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA):** I refer to the matter raised under Rule 377 in Parliament regarding inclusion of Khetauri, Ghatwal-Ghatwar and others as Scheduled Tribes and received a reply from the Hon'ble Minister of Tribal Affairs. But, amidst all of this, no development has taken place in this regard so far. In this context, I want to place a piece of great historical record – a book titled: "The Little World of an Indian District Officer", written by R. Carstairs and published by Macmillan & Co., London in 1912. In this book there is a detailed historical record of the fact that the Santhal Parganas was created and named in 1855, and thus was the youngest of the Bengal districts. The writer provides a wonderful account and description of the Ghatwals (guardians of the passes) and the Khetowrie (Khetauri) and how at the time of the Permanent settlement in 1790, every part of the territory was occupied. These details that at the time of the Permanent Settlement there was not a single Sonthal in the whole of this area. "Bhunyas, Khetowries, Hindoos, Mahomedans, Highlanders – yes, but Sonthals, no". It is a fact that when these findings were recorded and when the book in question was published, the, nomenclature of

Scheduled Castes and Tribes did not exist in the context of what it means administratively today. Thus the aborigines of the region are the ones who are deprived of their rightful status and claim to be recognized as Scheduled Tribes.