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Title: Inclusion of Garo and Khasi Languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution

श्री सुदीप बन्दोपाध्याय (कोलकाता उत्तर): सर, मैं उत्तर-पूर्व भारत के बारे में बोलना चाहता हूँ । कृपया मुझे दो मिनट का समय दिया जाए । It is about inclusion of Garo and Khasi languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. These languages belong to Meghalaya. Article 29 of the Constitution provides that a section of citizens having a distinct language, script or culture have the right to conserve the same. Under the Meghalaya State Language Act, 2005, Garo and Khasi have been declared as associate official languages of the State. Khasi is an Austro-Asiatic language spoken primarily in Meghalaya and in the hill districts of Assam. Garo is a Tibeto-Burman language of the Bodo-Konyak-Jingpho group, closely related to Bodo.

It is primarily spoken in Meghalaya, Assam, Tripura, and Nagaland. According to the Census 2011, there are over 13 lakh, 46.5 per cent, Khasi speakers and over 9 lakh, 31.5 per cent, Garo speakers. The issues in inclusion of these two languages have been the lack of their own original scripts.

On 27th September, 2018, the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly adopted a resolution to petition the Central Government to include Khasi and Garo language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. We urge the Union Government to take cognisance of the State's demand to include Garo and Khasi in the Eighth Schedule.