

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding recognition of Tribals in Sikkim -laid.

SHRI PREM DAS RAI (SIKKIM): In 1975 through the Act of Parliament and insertion of 371 F in the Constitution of India, the erstwhile Chogyal ruled country of Sikkim became the 22nd State of the Indian Union.

The referendum conducted with overwhelmingly 98 percent of Sikkimese voted to join. There was equality and equity within all the communities of Sikkim in so far as social status was concerned. Under the historic May 8th Agreement of 1973, there was a clause which said that this equality would continue.

After 1975, the various laws of India which were extended, started impacting the society of Sikkim at large adversely. The State Council elected prior to merger was deemed to have been elected in accordance with the Election of India norms as the new State Assembly. So KaziLhendupDorji became the first elected Chief Minister of Sikkim.

In 1978, the Bhutias and Lepchas were granted tribal status and also reservation provided in the Sikkim State Assembly— 12 seats for However, the same status was not granted to other tribals. This caused the first historical injustice to all the other communities by not taking the historical status of equity and equality that existed prior to 1975.

In 2003, the Limbus and Tamangs were recognised as Scheduled Tribes under Article 342 of the Constitution of India. They have not been given reservation even though the Supreme Court has directed Government of India to do so in 2016 January itself. All other communities are as Tribal as the Limbus and Tamangs.

Under Article 371 F, we demand that all the other communities, namely, Mangars, Rais, Bhujels, Gurungs, Sunuwars, Khas (Chettri and Bahuns), Jogi, Sanyasi, Newars, Dewan and Majhi, be recognised by Government of India as Tribals and make Sikkim a Tribal State. This will ensure that the injustice done to the Sikkimese people in 1978 will be undone and peace will prevail along with full political reservation and social and political security ensured for all Sikkimese.

