

Title : Need to enact the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2019 for inclusion of six ethnic communities of Assam in the List of Scheduled Tribes-Laid

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI (JORHAT): Six ethnic communities in Assam namely the Adivasi/Tea Tribes, Tai Ahom, Moran, Matak, and Chutia Koch-Rajbongshi have been demanding their inclusion in the Central list of Scheduled Tribes. The demand is based on the argument that these communities possess the characteristics of Scheduled Tribes and face socio-economic disadvantages. The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) has also approved their inclusion. The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 8th January 2019. This bill sought to amend the list of Scheduled Tribes of Assam, specifically to include six ethnic communities: Adivasi/Tea Tribes, Tai Ahom, Moran, Matak, Chutia, and Koch-Rajbongshi. The delay in the enactment of this crucial legislation has had a profound and negative impact on these marginalized communities. They continue to suffer from socio-economic disparities, discrimination, and lack of adequate representation. The recognition as Scheduled Tribes would have provided them with much-needed constitutional safeguards, affirmative action, and access to Government schemes and resources. I urge the Government to prioritize this bill's passage and expedite the legislative process. The continued delay is causing immense hardship to these communities, and it is imperative to address their legitimate aspirations.