

**Need for a separate religion code to ?Saridharam? and ?Sarna Dharam?
followed by Santhals and other tribals in various parts of
the country-Laid**

SHRI KALIPADA SAREN KHERWAL (JHARGRAM): As we know the Santhals are the largest homogeneous tribe of India and they are mostly inhabited in the States of West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Bihar, Assam and Tripura. The Santhals and other Adivasi communities profess and practice their own religion the "SARIDHARAM" and 'SARNA DHARAM" since time immemorial. Although the right to practice, profess and propagate our own religion is our Fundamental Right as per the Article 25 and 26 of the Constitution of India, yet the SANTHALS and other Adivasis have not been allotted separate religion code for 'SARIDHARAM" and SARNA DHARAM. I would like to mention here that the West Bengal Assembly has already introduced and approved a Bill as per 'Motion Under Parliamentary Rule 185' for allotment of Separate Religion Code for SARIDHARAM for Santhals and SARNA DHARAM for other Adivasis on 17th February, 2023. Therefore, in order to honour the religious sentiments of the Santhals and other Adivasi communities, I, strongly demand for allotment of a separate religion Code for the SARIDHARAM and the SARNA DHARAM, and also demand for a separate Column for 'SARIDHARAM' and SARNA DHARAM in the Data Collection Form to be used in the forthcoming Census of India.