

**Regarding need to recognize ?Saridharam? and ?Sarna Dharam? as separate religions followed by Santhals and other Tribes-Laid**

**SHRI KALIPADA SAREN KHERWAL (JHARGRAM):** As we know the Santhals are the largest homogeneous tribe of India, and they mostly inhabit in the States of West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Bihar, Assam and Tripura. The Santhals and other Adivasi communities profess and practice their own religion "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 Adivasi communities have not been able to find recognition for their own religion ?SARIDHARAM" and ?SARNA DHARAM? in India. It is noteworthy to mention here that the West Bengal Assembly has already introduced and approved a Bill as per 'Motion Under Parliamentary Rule 185' for recognition of ?SARIDHARAM? for Santhals and ?SARNA DHARAM? for other Adivasis on 17th February 2023. Therefore, to honour the religious sentiments of the Santhals and other Adivasis. I, strongly demand to the Government of India for recognition of ?SARIDHARAM? for Santhals and ?SARNA DHARAM? for other Adivasis and also demand for allotment of separate religion Column Code for ?SARIDHARAM? and ?SARNA DHARAM? in the Data Collection Form to be used in the forthcoming Census of India.