

Regarding the issue of grant of ST status to six communities in Assam

श्री जयन्त बसुमतारी (कोकराझार) : *Thank you, Honourable Chairperson. Sir, I would like to speak in Bodo language.*

@ Honourable Chairperson Sir, Recently in Assam, the proposal to grant Scheduled Tribe (ST) status to six communities, that are already relatively developed and demographically large, has sparked widespread protests across the state. Organisations representing these six communities are demonstrating in support of the proposal, while various other groups, including student bodies, college and university students, and organisations of the existing ST communities, along with the general public, are protesting against it.

On 29 November 2025, the group of ministers appointed by the Government of Assam presented a recommendation in the State Legislative Assembly to include these six new communities under the ST category. This move has created an atmosphere of apprehension and uncertainty among the existing ST communities. It has, in fact, added fuel to an already escalating situation. In response to this, the current ST communities have delivered a strong and unequivocal message to both the State and Central governments that they will not accept any decision that undermines the rights and protections they are constitutionally entitled to as Scheduled Tribes.

It is undeniable that the six communities also have the constitutional right to advocate for their development and long-standing demands. However, in the process of addressing their concerns, if the rights and privileges of the existing ST communities are compromised, the situation could deteriorate further and potentially spiral out of control.

As a member of an existing ST community myself, I earnestly appeal to the Government of Assam, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the ST/SC Commission, and the Registrar General of India to resolve this issue amicably.

Thank you.