

Title: Need to take steps for uplift of Rajbanshi community of North Bengal.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Rajbanshi community of North Bengal belongs to Scheduled Caste community. They have been facing serious difficulty for the last few decades to protect their language, preserve their culture and to fight their backwardness. Peace-loving Rajbanshi community never took arms in their hands; on the other, they shared the agony of the Partition of India by co-inhabiting with the then displaced persons from East Bengal in various parts of North Bengal.

They are living on agriculture. Though a number of graduates, doctors have come from this community, yet the promotional aspect of their up-bringing in all walks of life are yet to be looked into. The Government of India, therefore, involving West Bengal Government should adopt aggressive plan measures both for the economic development of North Bengal and socio-cultural and economic up-bringing of the Rajbanshi community to preserve their identity in a respectful manner. The University of North Bengal must open a Centre of Studies of Rajbanshi dialect and culture and their folk in line with other ethnic culture of rest of India.

In Islampur Sub-Division of West Bengal, Surjapuri dialect and culture should equally be protected along with making Urdu the second language too. In Duar's region, there is no opportunity for high and higher secondary level of education in Hindi which is depriving large section of population engaged in the tea gardens. They are forced to study Bengali, which is not fair in terms of our linguistic harmony in the country.

I request the Union Government to look into the matter early.