

Title: Demanded recognition and inclusion of the Santhali language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, day before yesterday, the West Bengal Assembly has passed a unanimous Resolution for the recognition of the Santhali language and for the inclusion of that language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Come to the subject straightway. Do not give introduction, etc. Some more hon. Members are to be accommodated.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, Santhali language is one of the oldest languages.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Do not give the history of it. Your request is that the Government of India should recognise that language. Okay. Now, Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, let me speak. Out of the 120 languages, the position of the Santhali language is 13th. This language is spoken by more than three crores of people. Even the languages, which are spoken by less than the people who speak Santhali language, have been recognised; but this language is not recognised. I demand that the Santhali language should be recognised and it should be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

***SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU (JHARGRAM-ST):** Hon'ble Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the demand raised by our Hon'ble Member Shri Basudeb Acharia regarding the inclusion of Santhali language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

Sir, till now not a single language of any ST community has been included in the Eighth Schedule. It is my demand to the Central Government to have proper development of Santhali language, to provide appropriate honour and respect to this language so as to protect national integrity. Immediately a Language Bill must be introduced in Parliament and expedite this long-standing demand of Santhali people for recognition of their language.