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Title: Need to take suitable steps to check increase in the rate of drop-outs among the Scheduled Tribe students at primary school level in Orissa.

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH (PHULBANI): The increasing drop out of tribal student in Orissa is a matter of great concern. More than two lakhs Scheduled Tribe students are not going to school. About 63% of Scheduled Tribe students are leaving the studies every year at primary school level. One of the reasons for this large-scale drop out is the poverty and illiteracy of their parents. Most of tribal villages are located in the inaccessible areas. Unless due publicity is given to the need for education in the remote area, through some agency the drop out rate cannot be reduced. Besides the NGOs who are really working on educating children should be encouraged. As the tribals who are living in the remote areas have no access to media, the Union Government should deploy some officials from various Ministries to review the situation and engage publicity departments to propagate the value of education. The teachers working in various schools should be given additional responsibility to monitor the attendance of the Scheduled Tribe students. All other assistance which is necessary to stop drop out should be extended by the Central Government.