

Sixteenth Loksabha

an>

Title: Regarding Bodo problems in Assam

SHRI RAM PRASAD SARMAH (TEZPUR): I would like to draw the kind attention of Union Government towards the condition of Bodo community in Assam particularly in my Parliamentary constituency Tezpur, Assam. Basic amenities like roads, electricity, school and potable water are not available in most Bodo areas. They live in forest areas and are deprived of their right to cast their votes in Panchayat elections. In my Parliamentary constituency around 70 (seventy) thousand Bodos are living in pathetic condition. Bodo community has been deprived of the benefits of The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 Despite being a major tribe, the Bodos are facing discrimination on more than one front, including that of language, with the short supply of school text books. The Bodos are also incrementally losing their land with more than 50% of what was once theirs and now going into the hands of non-tribals.

I urge upon the Union Government to look into the matter and take necessary action for upliftment of Bodo community and include their areas under Assam Panchayat Act, 1994 and allow them to contest and vote in Panchayat elections scheduled in 2018.