

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding reservation of Limboo-Tamang communities of Sikkim in the State Legislative Assembly

SHRI PREM DAS RAI (SIKKIM): The attention of the House is drawn towards the demand of reservation for the Limboo-Tamang communities to the Sikkim State Legislative Assembly. The Limboo-Tamang communities, notified as Scheduled Tribes in 2003, constitute a sizeable portion of the State's population. However, they have been deprived of their Constitutional entitlement to reservation of seats in the Sikkim State Legislative Assembly ensured under the Article 332.

The Government of Sikkim through a process of consultation submitted to the Union Home Ministry the formula through which this pending demand could be met in an equitable manner and justice done to all the communities and Tribes of Sikkim. Therefore, there is a long-standing demand to increase the number of seats in the Assembly from 32 to 40, so as to accommodate 5 seats for the two communities as per the Constitution of India.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has taken the proposal under consideration, but with the state elections due next year, there is an urgent need to amend the relevant Acts which require Parliament's approval.

I request the Government to expedite the process and grant the due rights to the people of the State of Sikkim, so that 'Sabka Saath, Sahka Vikaas' is possible. Also this matter is to be taken up expeditiously as per the Supreme Court directive received in January 2016.