

Sixteenth Lok Sabha

an>

Title: Need to accord Scheduled Tribe status to Gorkhas.

SHRI RAM PRASAD SARMAH (TEZPUR): Government had assured the Gorkhas in 2016 for their inclusion under Scheduled Tribes order, 1950, and a Committee was constituted under the Joint Secretary Mr. Ashok Pai and later under Smt. Bishu Maine, to examine granting ST status to 11 communities viz. Bhujel, Gurang, Mangar, Newar, Jogi, Khas, Rai, Sunwar, Thami, Yakhha and Dhimal - living in Sikkim and other Gorkha-dominated States and areas, and 13 Sub-Communities in Assam. There is over one crore Gorkha population in the country. Over 35 lakhs live in the North Eastern Region and it is regretted to note that in many states, Gorkhas are sometimes seen as foreigners or illegal settlers or non-locals. Gorkhas living in the northeast are involved in the development and economic activity in the Region.

Therefore, I demand the Union Government to immediately grant Scheduled Tribes status to 13 Gorkha communities in the country.