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Title: Regarding inclusion of Garo and Khasi language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution.

KUMARI AGATHA K. SANGMA (TURA): Sir, India is home to about 19,500 languages and dialects and about 200 of them are facing the threat of extinction. According to the UN, every two weeks, a language is getting extinct, and therefore, the 21st of February has been declared as International Mother Language Day. My mother language is Garo and it is spoken by over 9,36,496 people according to the 2011 Census.

Garo is also an associate official language in Meghalaya. Garo has a very rich oral and written literature. Recognizing this richness of both the languages, Khasi and Garo, on the 27th November, 2018, the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly unanimously passed a resolution urging the Centre to amend the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution and to include Garo and Khasi languages. In the same manner, Achik Literature Society which is in line with the Sahitya Sabhas of other States have also given a memorandum to the Government of India urging it to include Garo language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution.

Sir, we have received recognition from the Government that this memorandum has been received, but beyond that, there has been no other communication to us. Therefore, on behalf of my people, on behalf of everybody who has been requesting this and the Government of Meghalaya, I would request the Government, through you, to consider

this and include Garo and Khasi languages in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution.