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Title: Regarding revival and protection of 'Rajbanshi' Culture and language.

**DR. JAYANTA KUMAR ROY (JALPAIGURI):** Speaker Sir, through you I beg to draw the attention of this august House to the crisis which the Rajbanshi speaking people are going through.

Marginalized and fragmented, they are yet to have their own distinct identity to be recognized. They have a glorious folk tradition, which has already been eclipsed to a large extent because of the ups and downs of the cruel history. As a member of the said community, I feel very agonized at it. If that glorious tradition fades into total oblivion, it will be an enormous loss to mother India which is proud of its diversity with a rare kind of unity remaining at the core.

The demand for the recognition of our language is very much there and it will continue to remain. It is really very sad that this recognition is getting delayed mainly because of some undesirable controversies. Things have turned worse with the establishment of two different academies for the same language with two different names.

Meanwhile, our Government should take some measures so that we can protect the Rajbanshi culture and, at the same time, revive what has already been lost. The folk-drama of *Dotoradanga* is already extinct and *Kushan* based on Ramayana which was once immensely popular in North Bengal, is already on the verge of extinction.

Something needs to be done to revive them to their pristine glory. They are, in fact, the storehouses of basic human values without which

no society can thrive. I hope our Government will attach due importance to the issue that I raise today and do something concrete as early as possible for the purpose. Thank you, Sir.

**माननीय अध्यक्ष :** श्री कुलदीप राय शर्मा को डॉ. जयंत कुमार राय द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है ।