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Title: Need to include 11 communities of Sikkim in the list of Scheduled Tribes.

SHRI INDRA HANG SUBBA (SIKKIM): Sikkim is geographically small but a beautiful state with population just around 7 lakhs. Sikkim is amongst one of the eight North Eastern States, it is rich in traditions, culture, customs and cuisines like other NE states, which adds a unique feature to the diversity of our nation and we are proud of it.

But nonetheless, there are a number of socio-economic and political issues unresolved and pending since the very inception of its statehood in year 1975. Among other demands, inclusion of 11 left out communities namely Khas (Chhetri, Bahun), Rai, Magar, Gurung, Sanyasi/Giri, Thami, Dewan/Yakkha, Newar, Sunwar/Mukhia, Jogi and Bhujel in the list of Scheduled Tribes have been pending for many years now. Only about 40 percent of people of Sikkim are included in the list of Schedule Tribes. Remaining 60 per cent of them are either categorised as OBC or in General category.

The importance and urgency of including 11 left out communities in the list of Scheduled Tribes lies in the fact that these communities are also socio-educationally backward and economically weak at par with other Scheduled Tribes of Sikkim. All 11 communities belong to Sikkimese of Nepali origin as defined in the Tripartite Agreement signed on 8th May, 1973 and are protected by 371F. It was a historic mistake

when all these communities were not included in the list of Scheduled Tribes at par with other tribes of Sikkim.

Therefore, for greater justice and equality, the 11 left out communities be included in the list of Scheduled Tribes under article 342 of the Indian Constitution at the earliest.