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Title: Need to include Jhodia Tribe Community from Kashipur block of Rayagada district in Odisha in the list of Scheduled Tribes.

SHRI SAPTAGIRI ULAKA (KORAPUT): Thank you, Speaker, Sir. I would like to raise the issue of the Jhodia Tribe which is a prominent tribe in Kashipur block of Rayagada district with more than one lakh people. Previously, they had ST status and were getting all Government benefits till 1997 after which they have been deprived of ST status.

Socially and culturally, the Jhodias are members of endogamous community of Jhodia Paroja and are very much a part of the Paroja clan. The same community members of adjacent blocks of Rayagada and Kalahandi districts are recognised as ST, but the Jhodia people are not getting ST status. Jhodia needs to be included as a synonym of Paroja which is notified as a Scheduled Tribe at Serial No. 55 in ST List of India. Though the Government of Odisha has written to the Government of India, but nothing much has been done. The Jhodia Tribe resembles the Tribal community.

I would urge upon the Minister of Tribal Affairs to urgently look into the issue and include Jhodia community from Kashipur in the list of Scheduled Tribes.

Thank you.