

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to ensure all round development and protection of the tribal people.

DR. RATNA DE (NAG) (HOOGHLY): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise an issue during the `Zero Hour`.

Today we are celebrating `Adivasi Day`. The tribals are the protectors of our environment. Today we are also celebrating `The International Day of Indigenous People`. Their contribution to society should be respected.

The hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal has ensured all-round development and protection of the tribal people. In our State too, we are celebrating this day as `Adivasi Day` and she has felicitated one Ms. Birbaha Hansda, a tribal lady, for her contribution to tribal culture. The West Bengal Tribal Development Cooperative Corporation is doing a great service for the welfare and development of tribals in the State. This is just one of the initiatives for development of tribals in the State of West Bengal.

I wish that the tribals are brought to the mainstream without losing their identity, customs and languages and only then the tribals would feel at home and contribute to the growth and development of our country. We cannot afford to isolate the tribal people. Tribals should be taken along as we grow. Their interests and requirements should be given proper attention and their needs have to be attended to.

Tribal population, as per 2011 Census, is over eight per cent of our total population. They should be given respect and should be allowed to stay where they were for centuries. They should be provided all amenities to lead a life of honour and respect.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. Ratna De (Nag).