

Title: Need to include Maithili language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (CALCUTTA NORTH WEST): Sir, inclusion of Maithili language in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution has been a long pending demand of the crores of people of a major part of Bihar, popularly known as Mithila. Mithila is famous all over the world for its rich cultural heritage, its glorious past and dynamic present.

Maithili is an independent language. It has, like other recognised languages of India, its own script popularly known as Mithilakshar of Tirhuta. It is about 1300 years old. It is entirely due to lack of printing facilities in the Tirhuta that Maithili books are printed in 'Deonagri'. It is also recognised by P.E.N., an international literary organisation, as a literary language.

Maithili as a modern Indian literary language is a recognised subject of study and research not only in all universities of Bihar but also in other universities. The Maithili language has its own grammar, several books written on grammar includes one by Dr. G.A. Grierson also in 1881. It has also its own dictionary.

I request the Union Government that the case of Maithili be kindly considered and be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.