

Title: Need to introduce Bengali language as medium of instruction in North Eastern states.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (TAMLUK): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to the attention of the Government, through you, a matter of national importance. Every citizen of India must have a right to study in his mother tongue, even if he resides outside his State.

Sir, Bengali language is the second largest principal language of our country. Recently, the Government of Jharkhand has stopped teaching Bengali language in Bengali medium schools there. Even the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration has taken a similar step. As a result of that, millions and millions of Bengali speaking people including all other citizens are deprived of having education in their mother tongue. So, the Government of India should come forward to enact a law to ensure that the Bengali speaking people are able to study through their mother tongue, even if they reside in other States. ...*(Interruptions)* I also demand that all the NCERT books should be published in all the languages of the country. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I seek your indulgence because this is a very important issue.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes; I agree with you that this is important. Please take your seat now. Shri Prabhunath Singh will make his submission now.

...*(Interruptions)*