

Title: Need to include the Namasudra community in the category of SCs in Uttaranchal.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, after the partition, thousands and thousands of people from erstwhile East Pakistan were uprooted, and they settled in Uttar Pradesh, in some districts of now Uttaranchal; Chhattisgarh in Madhya Pradesh, and two to three districts of Orissa. Most of them are *namasudras*.

This *namasudra* caste is recognised as a Scheduled Caste in the State of West Bengal, Assam and Tripura. But the same *namasudra* caste is not recognised as a Scheduled Caste in the State of Uttaranchal, although, in the past, when this State was with Uttar Pradesh, the erstwhile State Government of Uttar Pradesh had recommended for inclusion of this caste in the List of the Scheduled Caste.

They have not received the right to their land, the *pattas*. The *pattas* have not been given to them. They have been fighting for the last 15 years to get justice. Yesterday, more than 10,000 persons from Uttaranchal came to Delhi and submitted memoranda to the hon. Prime Minister of India demanding that the *namasudra* caste be recognised as a Scheduled Caste.

I urge upon the Government that as the Namasudra caste is recognised in three States of our country, it should be recognised as a Scheduled Caste in the State of Uttaranchal.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (PANDHARPUR): Sir, I am also associating with it.