

Title: Need to include Sambalpuri/Koshali language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (SAMBALPUR): The western region of Orissa has a distinct culture, age-old tradition and a different language. This region consists of 10 districts of Orissa where people generally speak a common language known as Sambalpuri/Koshali.

Sambalpuri/Koshali language has its own words and phrases. It has its own dictionary. Nearly one crore people speak in this language. The folk song in this language is so popular that it has crossed the boundaries of not only Orissa but also India. Many high standard literatures including epics like Ramayana and Mahabharata have been written in this language which are very popular among the common readers. In the neighbouring State of Chhatisgarh also, which is adjacent to the Koshala region, many people speak in this language. There are many eminent writers and poets who have created high standard literature in this language. The great poet Gangadhar Meher belongs to this region.

In view of the above facts, there has been a consistent demand since last so many decades to recognize this language and place it in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India. I would urge upon the Central Government to consider this demand and include the Sambalpuri/Koshali language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (KALAHANDI): Sir, I would like to associate myself with Shri Prasanna Acharya as I come from Western Orissa and the question is about including the language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You are associated.