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Title: Regarding reported bandhs by six ethnic Communities in Assam for their rights to be enlisted as SC/ST.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (LAKHIMPUR): Hon. Speaker, Sir, there has been a consistent demand from six ethnic communities of Assam for enlisting them into the category of Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) list of the country for the last 40 years. In the year 1997, the Joint Select Committee of Parliament headed by the then Member of Parliament, Shri Amar Rai Pradhan, had thoroughly examined the issue, and recommended for inclusion of all those communities, namely, Moran, Motok, Koch-Rajbongshi, Chutia, Ahom, and various groups of tea tribe communities of Assam.

This matter has been deferred time and again since then due to lack of political will of the Government on various pleas despite positive reports submitted by the Government of Assam, the Registrar General of India (RGI), and also the Commission for SC and ST. It is rather humiliating that the Koch-Rajbongshi community, which was once granted the ST status for quite sometime in 1996-1997 through an Ordinance of the Government, was ultimately withdrawn.[\[r16\]](#)

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\*Not recorded

The Assam Assembly has also passed a unanimous resolution in favour of granting Scheduled Tribe or Scheduled Tribe status to this community. As a result,

the affected communities are resorting to various kinds of protests including intermittent *bandhs* thereby paralyzing the normal life in the State and occasionally leading to violent incidents. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to resolve this issue with topmost priority once and for all so that these deserving ethnic communities are not deprived further of their legitimate claim. Some of these communities are already in the list of Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes in other States of India. These communities are genuinely deprived. I seek your intervention so that these communities get due justice.

AN HON. MEMBER: I associate with Dr. Sarma, Sir.