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Title: Need to celebrate certain events of national importance in Orissa to make the 150th anniversary of the 1857 First War of Independence.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : Year long official programmes have been planned in different parts of the country to mark the 150th anniversary of the 1857 First War of Independence and the 60th anniversary of Independence. At least, a list of 65 suggested events has been prepared, commencing from Independence Day and concluding on August 11 next year. But to my surprise not a single event which occurred in Orissa is listed though people's sacrifice there is no less if not more. During the 1857 First War of Independence, Hatee Singh and Madho Singh were incarcerated in Andaman and later hanged to death for their fight against the British. Sardar Surendra Sai led a struggle for more than 27 years and was imprisoned in Hazaribagh which was demolished by the sepoys and he was let free. Chakhi Khuntia of Puri was closely associated with Rani of Jhansi Laxmi Bai during her struggle. During 1942 Quit India Movement, 29 people laid down their lives in Iram resisting British forces non-violently. The Salt Satyagraha of Inchudi was termed as second only to Dandi. Laxman Nayak, a young tribal, was hanged to death during the Quit India Movement. His martyrdom is perhaps the only one after 1942. But not a single event is listed by the Government.

I urge upon the Government to take up some events or these events of importance and celebrate occasions in Orissa too.