

>

Title: Need to rename Silchar railway station as 'Bhasha Shahid Station'.

*SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR (BALURGHAT) : Respected Chairman Sir, through you I would like to draw the kind attention of Hon. Minister of Home Affairs to a matter of great public importance. You are aware that there are large number of Bengali speaking people in the State of Assam. Bengalis have been staying there for many years; even before Partition, they were there. So along with Assamese language, Bengali language was also a medium of

instruction in the schools of Assam. In the year 1960, Assamese language was given recognition by the Government of Assam. Since then, the Bengali population has been fighting for the recognition of Bengali language. On 19 May, 1961, this language struggle took a major turn in Barak valley of Silchar. Assam Police opened fire on the activists as a result of which 11 persons died. In 1962, during the Indo – China war, this language movement stopped. As that time, the Bengali speaking people demanded that the Silchar railway station should be renamed as "Bhasha Shahid Station". Cutting across party line, Hon. Members of Lok Sabha and Assembly, ministers as well as the common people of Assam have, in one voice, reiterated this demand. Hon. Chief Minister of Assam, Shri Tarun Gogoi has given the No-objection Certificate but still this demand has not been met. I received my education in Assam and am well aware of the sentiments of the Bengali population of the State. Thus I urge upon the Central Government to pay due homage to the language martyrs by renaming the Silchar station as 'Bhasha Shahid Station'. With these words, I conclude my speech.