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Title: Need to recognize Ahoms community as Scheduled Tribes.

SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN (NOWGONG): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak about the inclusion of Tai Ahoms, Koch Rajbonshi, Moran, Motak, Chutia, Tea Garden and Ex-Tea Garden labourers in the Schedule of the Constitution (ST) Order, 1950 specified for Assam under Article 342 of the Constitution of India.

Sir, almost all the Mongoloid Tribes of India as well as the North-Eastern Tribes are either ST (Hills) or ST (Plains). But only the Ahoms, Koch Rajbonshi, Chutia, Moran, Motak, Tea and Ex-Tea Garden labourers are deprived of such privileges under the Constitution in spite of having such provision in the Constitution.

The Governor of Assam and the State Government have also recommended for the inclusion of these major communities in the list of ST (Plains) to the Government of India. Now, with the formation of the select Committee of the Parliament, there is every hope that this matter will be set right by removing all the lacunae and bring justice to more than one crore population of these six backward communities in Assam.

The matter of Koch Rajbonshis community for inclusion in the ST list was taken up in 1996 and subsequently three times the Ordinance was passed to grant them the ST status for a limited period, which is now vacated. This has resulted in humiliation to the community since lot of confusion arises while students proceed for higher education outside the State of Assam. Therefore, a concrete decision should be taken to protect these six major backward communities who have been raising their voice in various forums for a long period.