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Title: Need to develop Santhali language.

SHRI PULIN BIHARI BASKE (JHARGRAM): Sir, I would like to raise a matter of national importance and draw the attention of the Government to it through you. The Union Government has passed the Santhali Language Bill on 22nd December, 2003 in this Lok Sabha and Santhali language had been included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. But it is a matter of sorrow that during the last eight years no Government has taken any initiative to develop this language. Santhali Academies were set up but these are not functioning in many States. In West Bengal, about 400 primary schools are running in Santhali medium. Students of these schools are facing great difficulties after passing the Fourth Standard. In the Lok Sabha, â€¦*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The remark about Lok Sabha Secretariat will not form part of the record.

SHRI PULIN BIHARI BASKE : We the few Members who belong to Santhal community can never speak in our mother tongue Santhali. I would like to draw the attention of the Government to solve the problem immediately to honour this community.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Regarding the Secretariat, that can be deleted. The other things can go.