

>

**Title: Need to create a separate state of Bodoland.**

**SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (KOKRAJHAR):** The socio-economic, ethno-political, human rights, and security related situation emerged in the aftermath of the aggression of the illegal Bangladeshi immigrants on the indigenous Bodo-Tribal people and other local Indian people within Bodoland and its adjoining Dhubri district in Assam since the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of July, 2012 has become indeed a matter of serious concern. The unchecked influx of the illegal Bangladeshi immigrants into the Tribal Belts within Bodoland and also in the northern tract along the Brahmaputra river has totally changed the demography, socio-economic and political feature of the region, threatening the identity, survival and existence of all the indigenous people to a great extent.

All the successive state governments of Assam over the past 5 decades have totally failed to protect the lands and the overall rights of the indigenous people against illegal occupation of their territories by illegal immigrants. In this backdrop, the indigenous Bodo tribal people and other local people living in the entire northern bank of the river Brahmaputra have been left with no other option than to demand for creation of long awaited separate state of Bodoland in order to ensure the survival and existence as well as development of the people. The tribal people of the Northeastern region like the Nagas, the Mizos, the Garos, the Khasis, the Jaintias, and several tribes of Arunachal Pradesh etc. have been able to develop themselves in all the spheres of human development after getting separate state of their own. As regards Assam, it is still geographically and administratively unmanageable due to its huge size, different topography and complex ethnic composition of the people.

The degree of autonomy provided to the Bodo people in 2003 under the provisions of the 6<sup>th</sup> Schedule to the Constitution of India has been found to be utterly inadequate in meeting the genuine hopes and aspirations of the people of both tribals and non-tribals of the Bodoland territory.

I, therefore, would like to strongly urge upon the Union Government of India to take appropriate steps to expedite the process of the creation of a separate state of Bodoland in line with the States of Uttrakhand, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh created in 2000.

---