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Title: Need to consider the proposal for inclusion of Sambalpuri/Kosali and Ho languages in the 8<sup>th</sup> Schedule to the Constitution.

DR. PRABHAS KUMAR SINGH (BARGARH): Hon. Speaker, Madam, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to raise this very important issue relating to my State, especially to Western Odisha. This is regarding inclusion of Sambalpuri/Kosali and Ho languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India.

Sambalpuri/Kosali is the mother tongue of about 70 lakh people spread over ten contiguous Districts of Western Odisha. It has been prevalent in written form for more than fifty years. It is a medium of education in non-formal schools. It has a robust oral tradition of many centuries in the form of folk music and folk literature. It forms the pride of a strong linguistic identity and the resultant cultural homogeneity of the entire Western Odisha region.

Similarly, Ho language is the mother tongue of more than a million tribal people living at the borders of Odisha and Jharkhand. Also, this language satisfies majority of the criteria required for inclusion in the Eighth Schedule.

I understand that the matter of inclusion of more languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution is presently under consideration of the Government of India. Hon. Chief Minister of Odisha Shri Naveen Patnaik in his meeting with hon. Prime Minister urged upon him for inclusion of Sambalpuri/Kosali and Ho languages in the Eighth Schedule. A Committee was appointed for the same in my State.

The hon. Prime Minister, during his last election campaign in Sambalpur, highly praised the Sambalpuri language, Sambalpuri tradition, Sambalpuri music, and Sambalpuri saree. So, I urge upon the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Home Minister to consider the demand made by our State and our Chief Minister for inclusion of Sambalpuri/Kosali and Ho languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

Thank you.