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Title: Need to take initiative to include Kok-Borok in the list of the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

SHRI JITENDRA CHAUDHURY (TRIPURA EAST): Thank you, Deputy Speaker, Sir. Kok-Borok, a dialect of Tibeto-Burman group, is the mother tongue of more than thirteen lakh Tripuri population inhabiting in Tripura, Mizoram and Assam States of India, and also of eight Districts of Bangladesh. Kok-Borok speaking rulers ruled the State for more than 1300 years. But that could not be flourished that way. Though Kok-Borok is one of the rich languages in Eastern India by its treasure of folklore, folktale, vocabulary and cultural heritage, it could not be flourished that way.

However, Kok-Borok has been blessed to survive by the love and sacrifice of its people and sincerest effort of the Left Front Government in the State under the leadership of two great visionaries, Nripen Chakraborty and Dasaratha Deb who have recognized Kok-Borok as one of the Official Languages of the State since 19th January, 1979.

During the last 36 years journey of Kok-Borok as Official Language of Tripura, it has achieved many laurels in the field of literature, art and culture. A number of authors, singers and musicians have been conferred with awards at the national and regional level like Sahitya Academy and Sangeet Natak Academy.

In spite of all this, in this era of globalization, the very survival and development of a minority language like Kok-Borok is very difficult unless it is patronized by the Union Government by the frame of law, budgetary support and various departmental activities. It is also very important in today's circumstances to rope all the socially, culturally and linguistically marginalised communities in the country by promoting their culture and languages in order to instill a spirit of patriotism and a sense of pluralism.

Hence, I would like to request the Government to take initiative to include Kok-Borok in the list of the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. The Tripura Legislative Assembly, the Government of Tripura and the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous Council have sent their proposal to the Government of India in this regard several times. Thank you, Sir.