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Title :Need to consider Bengalis as original inhabitants while updating the National Register of Citizens in the State of Assam.

KUMARI SUSHMITA DEV (SILCHAR): Thank you Madam Speaker for giving me an opportunity to speak today on a very important issue. In the State of Assam there is a procedure going on to update the National Register of Citizens. This process has started pursuant to a court order. The draft list will be printed in January, 2017.

Recently, on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2015 the Assistant Registrar General of India issued a letter to Shri Hajela, who is the NRC Coordinator in Assam, saying that against the people who are original inhabitants of Assam the word 'OI' should be written. Shri Hajela has recently given a statement saying that people who are Bengalis, Hindus or Muslims, by virtue of their language or surname they will not be referred to as original inhabitants of Assam.

What I would like to bring to the attention of this House is that Bengalis who live in Assam have been living in Assam, for instance in Barak Valley, before 1874 when Cachar became a part of the State of Assam.

It is my humble request Madam that this process of updating the Register should not create two classes of citizens in India and Bengalis should be considered as original inhabitants as they have come right from the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. Thank you Madam.

**माननीय अध्यक्ष :**

श्रीमती अपरूपा पोदार,

श्रीमती अर्पिता घोष और

श्री अधीर रंजन चौधरी को कु. सुश्रिता देव द्वारा उठाये गये विषय से संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है।