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Title: Need for inclusion of Santhali language in the eighth schedule to the Constitution.

SHRI SALKHAN MURMU (MAYURBHANJ): Sir, I would like to bring to the kind notice of this august House the need for recognition of Santhali language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution.

Nepali, Manipuri and Konkani languages were included in the Eighth Schedule in 1992 but Santhali language was not included though it tops among the 93 non-scheduled languages as per the Census Commissioner of India. As per 1991 Census, Nepali, Manipuri and Konkani speakers were 21 lakhs, 18 lakhs and 13 lakhs, respectively, whereas Santhali speakers were 52 lakhs. Besides, Santhali can be lingua franca for Munda, Ho, Bhumiji, Mahli and other tribals.

Therefore, I request the Central Government, through you, Sir, for immediate inclusion of Santhali language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution and thus honour the Santhals with their constitutional rights as per Article 29(1).