

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Need to include Rajbanshi language in the constitution of India.

SHRI PARTHA PRATIM RAY (COOCHBEHAR): Madam, I want to draw your attention to Rajbanshi language which is largely spoken by the Rajbanshi Community and some other communities who are settled across the country. It is spoken mainly in North Bengal, in some parts of Assam, Meghalaya and Bihar. In Nepal and Bangladesh, the language is also known as Rajbanshi.

The speciality of this language is that it has complete grammar, there are so many books on literature and other things. Rajbanshi is spoken by 8 million people in India, around 1.3 lakh people speak Rajbanshi in Nepal and nearly 10 million people in Bangladesh. A renowned linguistic Dr. Grierson in his book of Survey of India called the language spoken by the people of North Bengal and north part of Assam as Rajbanshi dialect.

I am very glad to say that the Government of West Bengal under the leadership of the Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee, has taken an initiative to include Rajbanshi language as one of the official languages of West Bengal.

The West Bengal Government has also established Rajbanshi Bhasha Academy in 2012. Several institutions and universities, namely, North Bengal University, Panchanan Barma University, NEHU and JNU are also working on Rajbanshi language. Dr. Girija Shankar Ray was awarded by Sahitya Akademi for 'Eminent Rajbanshi Writer'. I therefore, request the Government to consider the inclusion of Rajbanshi language in the Constitution of India.