

Janajati Suraksha Manch oppose ST moves to 6 communities



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The Bodoland Janajati Suraksha Manch has put up strong objection [against](#) the political party's promise to [grant ST](#) status to the six selected communities and termed that it is purely for the interest of their vote bank for election [as](#) unconstitutional.

“The BJSM’s objection is not only because of [fear](#) of their politically and socially extinction but mainly [against](#) the political party’s unconstitutional stands. The granting of Schedule Tribe is not for political purpose but for constitutional purpose and its process is essentially constitutional, not political, BJSM president Janaklal Basumatary said.

The tribal [leader](#) said that in earlier occasion in the constitutional process the proposal for granting of [ST](#) to the said [6](#) communities of Assam are all rejected several times by RGI [as](#) all of them are not qualified to be defined [as](#) Schedule Tribe under Art.366(25) of the constitution of [India](#) and could not be included in the [ST](#) list of Assam in the Constitutional (Schedule Tribe) order 1950 [as](#) amended till date for constitutional purpose.

“This can not be changed by the dictate of political parties for political purpose and in accordance with the wishes of applicant [6](#) communities. If this is done then it will amount to committing bribery of six [community](#) voters by the political parties which is an offence under the provisions of People’s Representation [Act](#). 1951 and utter violation of constitutional purpose of free and fair election and misuse of constitutional benefit for political party’s gain of votes, he siad.

He also opined that the much talk of committee report under Union [Home](#) Ministry is not new in processing the proposal of granting [ST](#) status to the [6](#) communities. Earlier there are [Home](#) Ministry cabinet note, Law Ministry cabinet note and Prime Minister cabinet note but

none could justify to include the [6](#) communities in the definition of Schedule Tribe under Art.366(25) of the constitution which is precondition for granting [ST](#) to any [community](#).

“Moreover there are Lokur committee report, Backward class Committee report and Joint parliamentary Committee report which did not favor the inclusion of any one of the said [6](#) communities [as](#) Schedule Tribe in Assam. Following the said reports and according to their own finding of tribal characteristics the Registrar General of [India](#) firmly disagreed for granting of [ST](#) status to the six communities of Assam in their separate report for each one of them several times in the constitutional (schedule tribe) amendment bills earlier, he said.

He said it is not expected the present committee can change the earlier committee report and reverse the RGI report which will amount to change of basic constitutional purpose for favoring the political purpose of political parties. “The constitutional purpose of granting Schedule Tribe to a [community](#) is to provide constitutional safeguard and protection to the weaker section of the society in their own origin [state](#) or in the area of their predominant habitant area of their own origin [state](#). This is not meant for the migrant from other [state](#) and not for dominant class of people not needed for any protection, not purely for political purpose, he said.

He also stated that the Tea [community](#) of Assam is basically migrant from various states of [India](#) Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, Chattishgarh, [AP](#) and MP etc. who came for employment [as](#) contract labor in tea companies of Assam. Subsequently they migrated to Assam for occupying the reserved forest land and tribal reserved land too illegally which is still in continuous process. They are not origin inhabitant of Assam, but migrants from other [state](#). They are heterogeneous communities mixture of 96 different communities of

different states. Some are SC, some are OBC, some are [ST](#) and some are General caste among them in their [state](#) of origin.

They totally lost their original status on migration to other [state](#), with different environment and different working culture. So they can not [claim ST](#) in migrated [state](#) of Assam even though some of them are [ST](#) in their [state](#) of origin. The [ST](#) communities of Assam also can not [claim ST](#) in other migrated states of [India](#). The Meenas are not STs in UP, Haryana, MP and Gujarat [as](#) migrated except in Rajasthan their [state](#) of origin.

The origin of Rajbangshi [community](#) is extended to Rangpur district of [Bangladesh](#) and northern districts of West Bengal. Thus the Rajbangshi or Khatriya Rajbangshi or Koch Rajbangshi whatever name it may be most of them are migrated to Assam from Bengal which is still in continuous process. Thus they can not [claim ST](#) in migrated [state](#) of Assam. More [over](#) basically they do not have tribal characteristics and that is why they are not recognized [as](#) Schedule Tribe by the govt. of West Bengal and govt. of [India](#) in West Bengal their [state](#) of origin [as](#) they are not defined [as ST](#) under Art. 366(25) of the constitution of [India](#). Rather they are recognized [as](#) Schedule Caste in West Bengal [as](#) defined under Art. 366(24) of the constitution of [India](#). Neither Assam govt. nor govt. of [India](#) can define the Koch Rajbangshi [as ST](#) under Art. 366(25) of the Indian constitution unless West Bengal govt. reverses their definition [as](#) SC under Art. 366(24) of the constitution of [India](#) if they can.

The Ahoms are dominant class who are [leader](#) of greater [Assamese](#) mainstream society strengthened by assimilation of communities of Chutiya, Moran, Matak co agitators for [ST](#) status. They all lost the need for constitutional protection and thus can not be defined [as](#) Schedule Tribe under Art. 366(25) of the constitution of [India](#).

“Thus it is already decided constitutionally the [6](#) communities can not be granted Schedule Tribe in Assam, he said.

AT Kokrajhar Bureau

Assam Times Kokrajhar bureau office, BTAD.

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