

নন্দিনী চক্রবর্তী, আই.এ.এস.

মুখ্য সচিব
পশ্চিমবঙ্গ সরকার
“নবান্ন”

৩২৫, শরৎ চ্যাটার্জী রোড, হাওড়া ৭১১১০২

দূরভাষ : ২২১৪ ৫৮৫৮; দূরবার্তা : ২২১৪ ৪৩২৮



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Nandini Chakravorty, IAS

Chief Secretary

Government of West Bengal
"NABANNA"

325, Sarat Chatterjee Road
Howrah 711 102

Ph. 2214 5858; Fax : 2214 4328

No. 27-CS/2026

Date: 19.02.2026

To,
The Union Home Secretary
Ministry of Home Affairs,
Government of India,
North Block,
New Delhi-110 001

Sub: Reminder letter regarding request for recognition of Sari Dharam and Sarna Dharam of tribal groups of West Bengal

Reference: 1) Memo No. 386-CS/2020, dated: 5th December, 2020
2) Memo No. 438-CS/2021, dated: 22nd February, 2021
3) 155 – Home (Cons)/RIM (Cons.)-14/2023, dated: 27th March 2023
4) Memo No.34-CS/2025, dated: 24th April, 2025

Sir,

I would like to bring to your kind attention that since 2020, the Government of West Bengal has been requesting the Government of India for enumerating, listing or describing the members of two prominent groups of the Scheduled Tribes of the state, in terms of their Tribal/Adibasi religion with Sari Dharam and Sarna Dharam. I enclose the previous communications, sent under the signature of the Chief Secretary, in this regard, for your perusal.

2. The State Cabinet, in 2022, unanimously resolved to move the proposal for the recognition of the Sari Dharam and Sarna Dharam, to the Government of India for consideration. Subsequently, the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, on 17th February 2023, passed a motion under Rule 185 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, for the recognition of Sari Dharam and Sarna Dharam. This motion was duly communicated by the Home and Hill Affairs Department, Government of West Bengal to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, via letter number 155 – Home (Cons)/RIM (Cons.)-14/2023, dated: 27th March 2023. All copies of the concerned documents and previous communications, referred above, are enclosed.

3. The recognition of the Sari Dharam and Sarna Dharam is deeply connected to the sentiments and emotions of the tribal community practising them. They strongly believe that recognition of their religion would ensure the upholding of their constitutional guarantees of religious freedom and protection of their minority rights. It is submitted that suitable timely decisions on the issue would help provide relief and assurance to the members of the concerned community.

Encl: As stated

Yours faithfully,


(Nandini Chakravorty)

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No.386-CS/2020

5th December 2020

To
Secretary
Ministry of Home Affairs
Government of India
North Block
New Delhi-110 001

Sir,

Some tribals/Adivasis have been approaching the Government of West Bengal for enumerating/enlisting/describing the tribals/Adivasis of the State in terms of their tribal/Adivasi religion. It is gathered that the matter has been already raised with the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

In order to formulate our responses in this regard, we may kindly be guided and informed suitably in this regard about your considered steps in this manner.

Yours faithfully,


(Alapan Bandyopadhyay)

আলাপন বন্দ্যোপাধ্যায় আইএএস
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No.438-CS/2021

22nd February 2021

To
Secretary
Ministry of Home Affairs
Government of India
North Block
New Delhi-110 001

Sub: Recognition of Sari Dharam and Sarna Dharam

Sir,

In continuation of my earlier letter No.386-CS/2020 dated 5-12-20, I am to further iterate the concern of the Government of West Bengal to know the latest status regarding the recognition awarded by the Government of India for enumerating/enlisting/describing the tribals/Adivasis of the State in terms of their tribal/Adivasi religion. It is gathered that the matter has been already raised with the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

To detail, Sari/Sarna Dharam constitutes a fulcrum of faith for our Adivasis/tribals in our State, and the issue deserves and needs specific kind attention.

Yours faithfully,

(Alapan Bandyopadhyay)



**Government of West Bengal
Home and Hill Affairs Department
Co-ordination Branch
Nabanna, 4th Floor, Room No. – 410
325, Sarat Chatterjee Road, Howrah- 711 102.**

e-mail:homecoordinationwb@gmail.com

No. 155 - Home(Cons.)/RIM (Cons.)-14/2023

Date: 27.03.2023

From: Deputy Secretary to the Government of West Bengal.

To: Under Secretary,
Ministry of Home Affairs,
Government of India

**Subject: Motions under Rule 185 adopted in West Bengal Legislative Assembly in the matters of
“Recognition of Saridharam and Sarnadharam” and “Attempt to divide Bengal”**

Sir,

I am directed to say that a Motion in the matter of “Recognition of Saridharam and Sarnadharam” was moved in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly on the 17th February, 2023 under Rule 185 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly and the Motion was adopted on the same day. A copy of the Motion in Bengali as adopted in West Bengal Legislative Assembly along with the English translation thereof is enclosed herewith for your kind information and necessary action.

I am also directed to say that another motion in the matter of “Attempt to divide Bengal ” was moved in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly on the 20th February, 2023 under Rule 185 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly and the Motion was adopted on the same day. A copy of the Motion in Bengali as adopted in West Bengal Legislative Assembly along with the English translation thereof is also enclosed herewith for your kind information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully,

- Encl: 1) Copy of Motion under Rule 185 as adopted in West Bengal Legislative Assembly on 17.02.2023 and its translation
2) Copy of the Motion under Rule 185 as adopted in West Bengal Legislative Assembly on 20.02.2023 and its translation

SKALikery

Deputy Secretary to the Government of West Bengal

No. 155(1) –Home(Cons.)/RIM (Cons.)-14/2023

Date:27.03.2023

Copy forwarded for information to
Secretary, West Bengal Legislative Assembly.

SKALikery

Deputy Secretary to the Government of West Bengal

Translation of the proceedings in relation to the Motion under Rule 185 of
Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the
West Bengal Legislative Assembly on 17.02.2023:

5. Motion Under Rule 185

Shri Rajib Lochan Saren moved the following Motion:

“Whereas, the tribal communities treat nature as a deity and worship and respect it;

Whereas, their separate aboriginal entity has not yet been recognized by the Central Government;

Whereas, in the current Census different religious communities have been recognized, tribal communities have not yet received any recognition; and

Whereas, till now there is no planning for recognizing Saridharam and Sarnadharam in the upcoming Census of the Central Government so that the existence of their separate religious identities can be palpable;

Therefore, this House desires that provision should be made in the upcoming census to recognize the separate religious identities of these aboriginal entities.”

The following Members took part in the debate:

1. Shri Budhrai Tudu;
2. Smt. Birbaha Hansda, Minister-of-State;
3. Shri Paresh Murmu;
4. Smt. Sandhyarani Tudu, Minister-of-State;
5. Shri Kamala Kanta Hansda;
6. Shri Dulal Murmu;
7. Shri Bulu Chik Baraik, Minister-of-State;
8. Shri Manoj Tigga.

Shri Rajib Lochan Saren exercised his right of reply.

The Motion was adopted.

(22)

5. Motion Under Rule 185

৫। নিয়ম ১৮৫ অনুযায়ী প্রস্তাব

Shri Rajib Lochan Saren moved the following Motion:

শ্রী রাজীব লোচন সরেন নিম্নলিখিত প্রস্তাবটি উপস্থাপন করেন :

“যেহেতু, আদিবাসী জনজাতিগোষ্ঠী প্রকৃতিকে দেবতা মনে করে পূজা ও শ্রদ্ধা স্ৰাপন করে;

যেহেতু, এখনও পর্যন্ত তাদের পৃথক জনজাতি সত্বে কেন্দ্রীয় সরকার স্বীকৃতি দেয়নি;

যেহেতু, বর্তমান আদমশুমারি (জনগণনা)-তে বিভিন্ন ধর্মীয় জনজাতিগোষ্ঠীকে স্বীকৃতি দেওয়া হলেও অদ্যাবধি আদিবাসী জনজাতিগোষ্ঠী কোনো স্বীকৃতি পায়নি; এবং

যেহেতু, Saridharam এবং Sarnadharam-এ এখনও কেন্দ্রীয় সরকারের আশ্রয় জনগণনাতে কোনো স্বীকৃতি দেওয়ার পরিকল্পনা নেই যাতে তাদের পৃথক ধর্মীয় সত্তার অস্তিত্ব উপলব্ধি করা যায়;

সেইহেতু, এই সভা মনে করে যে এই আদিবাসী জনজাতির অস্তিত্বকে আশ্রয় জনগণনাতে তাদের ধর্মীয় সত্তাকে অবিলম্বে স্বীকৃতি দেওয়ার ব্যবস্থা করা হোক।”

The following Members took part in the debate:

নিম্নলিখিত বিধায়করা বিতর্কে অংশগ্রহণ করেন :

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Shri Budhrai Tudu; | ১। শ্রী বুধরহি টুডু; |
| 2. Smt. Birbaha Hansda,
Minister-of-State; | ২। শ্রীমতী বিরবাহা হান্সদা,
মন্ত্রি-সহকারী; |
| 3. Shri Paresh Murmu; | ৩। শ্রী পারেশ মূর্মু; |
| 4. Smt. Sandhyarani Tudu,
Minister-of-State; | ৪। শ্রীমতী সন্ধ্যারানী টুডু,
মন্ত্রি-সহকারী; |
| 5. Shri Kamala Kanta Hansda; | ৫। শ্রী কমলা কান্ত হান্সদা; |
| 6. Shri Dulal Murmu; | ৬। শ্রী দুলাল মূর্মু; |
| 7. Shri Bulu Chik Baraik,
Minister-of-State; and | ৭। শ্রী বুলু চিক বরাইক,
মন্ত্রি-সহকারী; এবং |
| 8. Shri Manoj Tigga. | ৮। শ্রী মনোজ টিগা। |

Shri Rajib Lochan Saren exercised his right of reply.

শ্রী রাজীব লোচন সরেন অধিকারবলে উত্তর প্রদান করেন।

(23)

The Motion was adopted,

প্রস্তাবটি গৃহীত হয়।

4-13 P.M.

(The House was adjourned till 11-00 A.M. on Monday,
the 20th February, 2023.)

বিকাল ৪-১৩ ঘটিকা

(সভা আগামী সোমবার, ২০শে ফেব্রুয়ারী, ২০২৩, সকাল ১১-০০ ঘটিকা
পর্যন্ত মুলতুবি রাখা হয়।)

K. BHATTACHARYYA,
Secretary.

SPL-2023-1000-1.AP/53(23)

ড: মনোজ পন্ত, আই.এ.এস.
মুখ্য সচিব
পশ্চিমবঙ্গ সরকার
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৩২৫, শরৎ চ্যাটার্জী রোড, হাওড়া ৭১১১০২

দূরভাষ : ২২১৪ ৫৮৫৮; দূরবার্তা : ২২১৪ ৪৩২৮



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No. 34-CS/2025

Date : 24.04.2025

To
Secretary,
Ministry of Home Affairs,
Government of India,
North Block,
New Delhi - 110 001

Sub: Recognition of Sari Dharam and Sarna Dharam of some of the tribal groups of West Bengal.

Sir,

Kindly refer to our earlier letters no. 386-CS/2020 dated 05.12.2020 & No. 438-CS/2021 dated 22.02.2021 on the above-mentioned subject, regarding the steps taken, if any, by the Government of India for enumerating / enlisting / describing the members of two prominent groups of the Scheduled Tribes of West Bengal in terms of their tribal / adibasi religion viz. Sari Dharam / Sarna Dharam.

In this connection, I would like to inform you that the State Cabinet, on 6th July 2022 has decided unanimously to move the proposal for recognition of the "Sari" and "Sarna" dharam (religion) to the Government of India for consideration.

Additionally, a Motion under Rule 185 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly was passed on 17.02.2023 for recognition of Sari dharam and Sarna dharam, which was duly communicated by the Home and Hill Affairs Department, Government of West Bengal to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India vide their letter No.155-Home (Cons.)/RIM(Cons.)-14/2023 dated 27.03.2023 (copy enclosed).

You would kindly appreciate that the issue of recognition of the Sari Dharam / Sarna Dharam is an emotive one for the members of the tribal community who believe that recognition of their religion would help to ensure that their constitutional guarantees for religious freedom and protection of minority rights are upheld. On the other hand, collection of data on religious demographics could facilitate not only sociological and anthropological research and legal frameworks but also contribute meaningfully in making informed and impactful policy decisions for reaching the last mile, and accelerating holistic development of the tribal community.

In view of the above, I would again request you to kindly look into the matter and apprise us of the developments in this regard.

Yours faithfully,


(Dr Manoj Pant)