

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding establishment of a DD Nepali/Gorkha Bhasa channel-laid.

SHRI RAJU BISTA (DARJEELING): There are over 1.5 crore Indian citizens of Gorkha ethnicity whose mother tongue is Nepali. Our constitution under the 8th Schedule recognizes Gorkha Bhasa as one of the national languages of India. However, efforts towards the conservation and propagation of this glorious language is seriously lacking. While every major language recognized under the 8th Schedule has a dedicated Doordarshan Channel broadcasting programmes in their respective languages, the Nepali/Gorkha language has continued to be relegated to the side-lines. Till date we don't have a dedicated TV Channel broadcasting contents in Nepali/Gorkha Bhasa.

In the absence of a National Platform, the Gorkha culture, diversity, society and language has suffered immense cultural loss. In Darjeeling, Kurseong, and Kalimpong, the infrastructure, artists and audience are already in place. All we need is the Prasar Bharati to initiate the efforts.

Therefore, I request the Government to kindly expedite the establishment of a DD Nepali/Gorkha Bhasa Channel.