

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding demand for a separate State for Darjeeling hills-laid.

SHRI RAJU BISTA (DARJEELING): People from Darjeeling hills, Terai and Dooars have long struggled for establishing a separate 'Gorkhaland' state under the constitution of our nation resulting in many agitations.

The demand for Gorkhaland is directly linked to 'identity crisis' faced by the Indian Gorkhas.

To cater to the demand, two semi-autonomous bodies were established – DGHC in 1988, and GTA in 2011. However, these stop-gap experiments have failed to address the aspirations of the people.

Since Independence, Gorkhas have allegedly faced exploitation and injustice in WB. People have been allegedly deprived of their constitutional rights in the region and our region is backward due to alleged discriminations meted out by succeeding WB Governments.

Peaceful and developed critical 'chicken-neck' region is vital from the National Security perspective too.

I thank the Union Home Ministry for initiating tripartite talks to find Constitutionally Guaranteed permanent solution for our region. I request for expediting the process.

Kindly do the needful at your end.