

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding healthcare facilities in Darjeeling, Kalimpong and other districts of North Bengal.

SHRI RAJU BISTA (DARJEELING): The people of Darjeeling, Kalimpong, and other districts of North Bengal are today suffering due to abysmal healthcare facilities.

Majority of the people from our region work in the tea gardens, and the rest are dependent on mountain farming for their sustenance. The tea garden workers get paid only Rs. 205 per day. With such a low income, our people find it very difficult to make ends meet.

In such a situation, even if one family member gets unwell, the whole family faces a situation of acute economic distress.

Our existing health system is on the verge of collapse, and the State Government has failed to provide even basic health facilities. There is acute shortage of staff, hospital beds, doctors, and medical resources.

Majority of the people from our region are unable to afford travel to distant cities for availing treatment. Given that the tea garden workers are listed as industrial workers, I request the hon. Ministry of Labour and Employment to set up ESIC Hospitals in the tea gardens. I also request for the construction of an AIIMS in North Bengal region and the establishment of Medical Colleges in Darjeeling and Kalimpong District Hospitals.