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**Title: Regarding upgradation of EFRC Kurseong to a National level Institute**

**SHRI RAJU BISTA (DARJEELING):** The Himalayan region of NE state in India, starting from Darjeeling hills, Terai and Dooars are part of the Eastern Himalayan region. It is one of the IUCN 34 global biodiversity hotspots. This region has a fragile geography and ecology. Livelihood of the people here is mostly dependent on natural resources, agriculture and forestry related activities. In the past three decades, our region has witnessed immense changes, however, there has been no focus on research on studying these phenomena, understanding them and taking informed policy and developmental decisions. The Eastern Forest Rangers College in Kurseong is ideally situated to fill in this gap. Eastern Forest Rangers College (EFRC Kurseong) is spread over an area of 31 Acres, and carries with it immense potential for being developed as a premier research institute for our region. I am given to understand that Ministry is going to take a positive step in the regard. I request the Hon'ble Minister to kindly expedite my request and take necessary action for upgrading EFRC, Kurseong to a national level institute to teach Environmental and Natural Resources Management, Disaster Mitigation and Management, Climate Change and related disciplines.