

Title: Request to the Government to grant Scheduled Tribe status to the 11 tribal communities of Gorkha.

श्री राजू बिष्ट (दार्जिलिंग): Thank you Honourable Chairman Sir, I rise here today for the dignity and self-respect of the Gorkhas. Once again in this great nation Gorkhas have been denigrated. However, this time this humiliation is not done by any TMC leader, but the Highest Court of the land. On 13th Jan 2023, delivering a judgement on a Writ Petition, the observation of the Court was

?The person of foreign origin settled in Sikkim like the Nepalese.?

This is not only a humiliation of the people of Sikkim, but the one and half crore people residing in India. I would like to congratulate the Government of India, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Government of Sikkim that they have filed a Review Petition in the Supreme Court and the objectionable paragraph was deleted.

So far so good. However, this has not happened for the first time. Such incidents have taken place repeatedly. I would also like to urge upon the Government to clarify what is the identity of the one and half crore Gorkhas residing in India. Who am I? We have not come to this place crossing a border. Rather border has crossed our habitat. Thus just like Tamil speaking people are not Shri Lankan and Bengali speaking people are not Bangladeshis, how come people speaking constitutionally recognised language viz., Nepalese are foreigners? Therefore, sir I only want to say that the stigma which is repeatedly thrashed on Gorkhas, this stigma must be removed from the roots. In order to do that, I urge upon the Government to grant Scheduled Tribe status to the 11 tribal communities of Gorkha, which are still left out from their deserved status. I also request the government through you that this work should be done at the earliest.

Thank you very much.

माननीय सभापति : श्री बैन्नी बेहनन ? उपस्थित नहीं ।