

Regarding permanent political solution for the Darjeeling region - laid

SHRI RAJU BISTA (DARJEELING): The Gorkhas face acute 'crisis of identity' despite being indigenous to the land. The Gorkhas are time and again labelled as "outsiders". We did not cross the border, the borders crossed us. Our region was not a part of West Bengal till 1954. Since then, our political rights have been curtailed. There is a constant attack on our socio-cultural heritage. Our language is treated as secondary. Despite being one of highest revenue generating regions in West Bengal - Darjeeling hills, Terai and Dooars have remained grossly underdeveloped. This is why, the demand for Gorkhaland state keeps on cropping up time and again. In order to address the 'identity crisis' faced by the Gorkhas, our Government has assured them of Permanent Political Solution. PPS within the framework of our Constitution, which will do justice to their aspirations. The 1st round of talks for PPS has already been completed. However, there has been inordinate delay in conducting the talks further. I, therefore, request the Union Ministry of Home Affairs to kindly take urgent steps for Permanent Political Solution for the Darjeeling region.