

Need to include 11 left-out Gorkha Sub-tribes in the list of Scheduled Tribes-laid

SHRI RAJU BISTA (DARJEELING): The Gorkha community was compositely recognized as the "Hill Tribes" till Independence. This can be verified in the census documents of 1931 and 1941 as well. However, after Independence the "Hill Tribes" Status was taken away, without any consultation with the Community Members. Over the course of time, out of the 18 Sub-Tribes, 7 have been accorded ST status, two as recently as 2001. But 11 sub-tribes are yet to be re-instituted as ST. This has caused the left out Gorkha Sub-Tribes to be socially marginalized and deprived of their rights. The West Bengal State Cabinet has already passed a resolution to include these 11 left-out Gorkha sub-tribes as ST in 2014 itself. In January 2021, Sikkim State Assembly too has passed a resolution in favour of granting ST status to these 11 left-out Gorkha sub-tribes. I, therefore, request the Government to include the 11 left-out Gorkha sub-tribes as Scheduled Tribes Gurung, Mangar, Khas, Yakha/Dewan, Rai, Newar, Bhujel, Sunuwar, Jogi, Thami and Dhimal without any further delay.