

Regarding need to establish an AIIMS in Siliguri, West Bengal-Laid

SHRI RAJU BISTA (DARJEELING): The northern most districts of West Bengal ? Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Alipurduars, Jalpaiguri, Cooch Behar, North Dinajpur and South Dinajpur has a population of around 2.5 crore. People in these districts are dependent on tea estates for employment, or are engaged in farming for their sustenance. Due to low income, people here cannot afford treatment in private hospitals. Government run hospitals are inadequately staffed, and lack even the most basic equipment and facilities and most of the people of the region cannot afford to travel to distant cities for treatment. Additionally, 'Ayushman Bharat' scheme is yet to be implemented in the state and hence the poorest and most marginalized continue to suffer due to the lack of health care facilities. There is an urgent need to establish AIIMS at Siliguri for North Bengal. Siliguri is centrally located and lies in the heart of North Bengal. It is well connected by air, rail and road network. Thousands of people from across the North Bengal region travel to Siliguri for basic treatment already. Therefore, establishing an AIIMS in Siliguri will bring a major relief to the people from North Bengal. Even patients from eastern Bihar, parts of Sikkim, lower Assam will benefit.