

**Regarding need to take comprehensive measures to ensure resolving the issues with regard to Darjeeling Hills, Terai and Dooars regions in West Bengal-Laid**

**SHRI RAJU BISTA (DARJEELING):** The Darjeeling hills, Terai, and Dooars have unique history, geography, and culture, distinct from the rest of West Bengal. The successive West Bengal Governments have not taken appropriate welfare measures in favor of these people of these regions. This has led to repeated demands for political autonomy, including four major agitations for Gorkhaland. In 1988, the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council (DGHC) was formed. In 2011, the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) was established. Both the DGHC and GTA were undermined by the West Bengal Government, and not allowed to function autonomously. When people demand better governance and their constitutional rights, they are labelled as foreigners. Today, while Rohingya and illegal immigrants from Bangladesh are being settled in the region, the indigenous population is at risk of becoming a minority in their own land. This is a sensitive "Chicken Neck" area and the changing demography is a threat to the national security of India. The people of the region too are Indian citizens who have contributed immensely to nation-building. I request the Central Government to intervene and expedite a permanent political solution for these regions. So that the indigenous Gorkha, Adivasi, Rajbangshi, Bengali, Koche, Meche, Rabha, Toto can have a safe and secure future.