

Regarding demand for formation of separate state of Gorkhaland?- Laid

SHRI RAJU BISTA (DARJEELING): Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister, India has seen remarkable development and progress. Many areas that were once deprived and backward are now progressing rapidly. Regions that were plagued by political conflicts for a long time have become peaceful. However, Darjeeling, Terai, and Dooars, which symbolize nationalism, are still waiting for justice. The people of these regions have long been demanding a separate administrative entity, in the form of Gorkhaland state. This demand has led to several movements over the years. As a result of the 1986-88 movement, the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council (DGHC) was established. Similarly, the 2007-2011 movement resulted in the creation of the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA). Despite promises of autonomy, the West Bengal Government has not allowed the GTA to function properly, leading to another movement for Gorkhaland in 2017. The Darjeeling, Terai, and Dooars regions are also sensitive from a national security perspective. Our region shares borders with four countries - Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, and China. In the last decade, large number of Rohingyas and illegal Bangladeshis have entered our region. This has caused significant demographic changes in the area. Indigenous communities like the Gorkha, Adivasi, Rajbangshi, Bengali, Rabha, Toto, Koche, Meche, and Hindi-bhasi people are now at risk. I urge the Ministry of Home Affairs to immediately address the constitutional demands of our people. The delay in providing a constitutional solution is testing their patience. It is now time for the people of our region to receive the long-awaited justice.