

Need to impress upon the state government of West Bengal to allocate funds to disaster affected areas in Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Dooars in West Bengal under State Disaster Relief Fund-Laid

SHRI RAJU BISTA (DARJEELING): Darjeeling hills, Terai, and Dooars region has faced devastating natural disasters in recent years. On October 4th 2025, torrential rains caused widespread destruction across Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Dooars. 33 lives were lost, many were injured, and thousands are homeless. Even in 2023, dams on the Teesta River were breached due to glacial lake outburst, causing largescale devastations. Despite the severity, the State Government failed to notify these events as a disaster thereby, blocking access to the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) for relief efforts. Reports from the Home Ministry show that the West Bengal Government is holding over Rs 5800 crore in SDRF, wherein 75% of the funds was contributed by the Central Government. I humbly request the Ministry of Home Affairs to direct the West Bengal Government to release the SDRF funds for disaster relief and rehabilitation and also to initiate a detailed audit into SDRF utilization.