

## **Regarding Need for establishment of a multi-speciality hospital like AIIMS in Siliguri, West Bengal-Laid**

**SHRI RAJU BISTA (DARJEELING):** North Bengal region comprises of 8 districts including Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Alipurduar, Jalpaiguri, Cooch Behar, North Dinajpur, South Dinajpur and Malda. The North Bengal is home to nearly 3 crore people. However, the health infrastructure is very poor and the region lacks a good hospital. Government run hospitals are barely functional and lack basic facilities, doctors, and staff. Majority of the people in North Bengal districts are dependent on tea and cinchona garden workers and agriculture. They have a very low income and people cannot afford treatment in private hospitals. In 2012, the Central Government had approved for establishment of AIIMS in North Bengal. But, the hospital was shifted to Kalyani in South Bengal. Therefore, I request for establishing a multi-speciality government hospital like AIIMS in North Bengal. Siliguri city is centrally located and lies in the heart of North Bengal. It is well connected by air, rail and road network. People from across the NB district travel to Siliguri for work, study or business. Establishing an AIIMS in Siliguri will bring huge relief for the people from North Bengal. Even patients from eastern Bihar, parts of Sikkim, lower Assam, and neighbouring countries like Bhutan, and Nepal will benefit.