

Title: Need for all-round development of North Bengal.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Sir, I request the Minister of Planning to consider to include in the Tenth Plan the important issues of North Bengal for its extreme economic imbalances comprising Malda, South Dinajpur and Uttar Dinajpur, Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar. The aspirations of the Rajbanshis, tribals, erstwhile East Pakistani refugees are also extremely important. It is the most underdeveloped region in road connectivity and health infrastructure development. During Tenth Plan, a Medical College at Raiganj within Uttar Dinajpur District and Engineering College at Chanchal within North Malda must find place. North Bengal Industrial Development Corporation at Raiganj is extremely important. The Uttar Banga Unnayan Parishad of North Bengal must get a statutory status with a corpus of Rs.750 crore from Plan allocation for flood management and infrastructural development. If Planning Commission takes note of it for an appropriate provision in Tenth Plan document, North Bengal would be a prosperous zone of the State of West Bengal to provide enough support to the State of Sikkim and the entire North-East since this is the gateway to the North-East.