

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

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Sir, I draw the attention of the Union Government to the extreme economic imbalances of North Bengal within the State of West Bengal and the State of Sikkim. The District of Darjeeling requires a special status of financial support in the Tenth Plan. Uttar Bango Unnayan Parishad, a non-statutory body of development at the behest of the West Bengal Government, cannot render even lip service to the serious economic imbalances of North Bengal, unless special area status to the entire North Bengal comprising Malda, Dakshin Dinajpur, Uttar Dinajpur, Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar, is accorded by the concurrence of the Union Government and the State Government to prepare comprehensive data by the Planning Commission. Plan is a State subject, but to honour the commitment of the Prime Minister at the Red Fort, I urge upon the hon. Prime Minister to take stock of North Bengal Districts in 9<sup>th</sup> Plan and consider to accord a statutory professional body status to Uttar Bango Unnayan Parishad to selectively handle infrastructural development, flood management and health care.