

nt>

Title: Need to take steps to check the growing regional disparities in the country. - Laid.

SHRI KHAGEN DAS (TRIPURA-WEST): One of the grave concern before the Nation is the growing regional/inter-State disparities. All the Central Governments which came to power after Independence had theoretically advocated narrowing down of regional disparities. The objective announced by the Planning Commission and Finance Commission were also in that line. But in reality, regional disparities including per capita income has widened. According to Ministry of Finance publication the per capita income of last ranked State which was 32% with 1st ranked State in 1980-81, went down to 11.3% in 2000-01. As a group, per capita income of 13 bottom ranked States including all North-Eastern States has gone down in past three decades compared with 4 top ranked States, which reveals concentration of wealth in certain areas of the country. I would strongly demand that appropriate measures be taken to narrow down this serious regional disparity in the interest of national integration.