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Title: Need for Legislation to include Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council in Sixth Schedule to the Constitution.

श्री बसुदेव आचार्य (बांकुरा): मैं कोशिश करूंगा कि संक्षेप में अपनी बात कहूँ। I will try to be brief.

The turbulent years of 1980s in Darjeeling are still in our memories. There was bloodshed, killing of people and destruction of public property on the demand to separate Darjeeling from the State of West Bengal.

There was a tripartite agreement between the Government of India, Government of West Bengal and Shri Subhash Geishing of the Gorkha National Liberation Front (GNLF). The Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council (DGHC) was constituted by that agreement, and peace was restored. The Government of West Bengal provided enough financial assistance, and development works were taken up. Subsequently, after many years, this demand for a separate State of Darjeeling has again come up.

The Chief Minister of West Bengal wrote to the Prime Minister as well as the Home Minister in 2005, and there was a tripartite meeting in March 2005 with Government of India and Government of West Bengal where the Chief Minister, the Home Minister and the Chairman of the DGHC, namely, Shri Subhash Geishing were also present. Subsequently, in December 2005, it was unanimously decided to give Constitutional sanction to DGHC by amending article 244 of the Constitution by including DGHC in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

After two years, in September this year, the Cabinet has approved the draft legislation from what we have seen in the Press, and also from the list of pending Bills, that is, the new Bills for introduction. It is the Constitutional Amendment Bill to include DGHC in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

Again, the GNLF have called a *bandh* since yesterday for 104 days. This is the peak season for tourists. The entire economy of the Darjeeling district is dependent on tourism, and it will be destroyed and ruined. Actually, unity was strengthened between the people of hill as well as the people of plain. As the Government of India and the Cabinet has approved it, hence, I demand that the Government should not only introduce the Bill in this Session -- only a few days are left for the Session to conclude -- but it should also be passed.[\[r18\]](#)

Again there will be agitation because there is confusion as to whether the Bill will be brought or not. I demand that the Bill should be introduced and passed in this Session itself. This is a very serious issue. The Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Shri Handique is present in the House.

सभापति महोदय : मैं उनको बोल नहीं सकता हूँ।

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We want an assurance from the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs that the Bill will be introduced and passed in this Session itself.

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (BASIRHAT) : Sir, I associate myself with this issue.

सभापति महोदय : आप और सदस्यों को भी सुनिये, आपकी बात पूरी हो गयी है। रेवती रमन सिंह जी के अलावा कुछ भी लिखा नहीं जाएगा। संसदीय कार्य मंत्री आपके सूबे के हैं चैम्बर में बात कर लीजिएगा।

...(व्यवधान) *

सभापति महोदय : ठीक है, आप बैठ जाइये, मंत्री जी खड़े हैं।

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at this stage I can say this much that I shall bring the matter to the notice of the concerned Minister.