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Title: Reported recommendation to shift Geological Survey of India from Kolkata to Delhi

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Madam Speaker, the Geological Survey of India has been functioning with its headquarters in Kolkata since its inception. A high-powered Committee was constituted by the GSI to make recommendations on strengthening of GSI and on other matters. That high-powered Committee has recommended shifting of the office of GSI from Kolkata to Delhi. The Committee's contention is that shifting the location of headquarters of GSI from Kolkata to Delhi would result in better coordination with the Ministries.

Madam, there are other organizations which are functioning with their headquarters located outside Delhi. Since its inception, this organization has functioned from Kolkata and there was no problem of lack of coordination with the Ministry. This recommendation of the Committee gave rise to resentment among the employees of GSI and the people in general. I urge upon the Government to desist from taking any decision to shift the office of the GSI from Kolkata to Delhi.

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): Madam, I would like to clarify the position in this regard.

The Government has no intention of shifting the GSI headquarters from Kolkata to Delhi.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (BOLPUR): Thank you.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I have with me a copy of the order.

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: I am speaking on behalf of the Ministry and with the authority. GSI has been functioning from Kolkata, as the hon. Member has said, since its inception in 1856. During its history of 153 years, GSI has become a part of Kolkata's heritage and Kolkata has become a part of GSI's history. So, we are not going to shift GSI from Kolkata.

Madam Speaker, it is just a rumour that is being floated by interested parties to mislead the employees and to harm this institution. This rumour has been in circulation for quite some time. So, I would like to put forward a few points to clarify the position so that no misunderstanding occurs. The Liaison Office of GSI at Delhi is strengthened in order to liaise with the Ministries concerned for policy reform to revitalize the GSI. A high-powered Committee was constituted for strengthening the GSI. The Committee submitted its report on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2009 which has been placed on the website of GSI. The recommendations of the Committee include: (1) GSI to function in mission mode; (2) GSI to be upgraded into an Attached Office; (3) GSI's interface at Delhi to be raised commensurate with Attached Office status to enable GSI to interact with Ministries directly; and (4) Scientific streams of GSI to be made Organised Services.

Madam, regarding the longstanding demands of the GSI, I am proud to announce in the House today that the Ministry of Mines have elevated the status of GSI from the earlier Subordinate Office to Attached Office now; and that the headquarters of GSI continues to be located in Kolkata. Mr. Basu Deb Acharia is a senior leader. I hope he will help us in making the people understand the actual position. ...(Interruptions) I speak as an authority.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): They read only *Ganashakti* paper in the morning. That is why they are being misled.[\[KMR3\]](#)

[\[s4\]](#) SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: He should have asked me. I would have settled the whole thing without getting raised it on the floor of the House. â€¦ (Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Everybody is speaking now.

...(Interruptions)

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