

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding permanent solution to the agitation/demand of statehood to Gorkhaland.

SHRI PREM DAS RAI (SIKKIM): The recent outbreak of agitation in Darjeeling Hills for statehood demand of Gorkhaland has caused death of 11 youth from police firing. This is not acceptable. Sikkim is suffering untold loss from blockage of its only lifeline, NH-10, for transport of essential goods and commutation by students, people needing medical aid. Tourism, a strong driver of economy of Sikkim, has been disrupted due to the sustained unrest, with over 1 lakh hotel cancellations. Given its delicate geopolitical location, maintenance of peace within the region is very important. Hence, I request the Government of India to take cognizance of the issue without further delay and seek a permanent solution (State of Gorkhaland) for people of Darjeeling Hills which would benefit the nation and Sikkim. "Sab ka Saath Sab ka Vikaas" will only be possible in a new order in the region which is geopolitically sensitive (Dokalam).