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Title: Need to abolish District Improvement (DI) Fund of Darjeeling District, West Bengal-Laid.

SHRI RAJU BISTA (DARJEELING): Darjeeling district is the only district in India where the District Magistrate Administrators land labelled as District Improvement (DI) Fund. This provision was made by the British during colonial times so that British business and home owners could be given preferential allocation of land.

This unconstitutional provision has, however, continued under the West Bengal Land Reforms Act, 1955 after Independence. DI Fund allows the District Magistrate to have a monopolistic control over the lands, which has led to repeated harassment of our people.

The revenue collected for DI Fund never finds entry into the Consolidated Funds of the State. Permanent settlers on lessees are forced to pay a hefty yearly lease premium.

Today, area covering 748.39 acres with 3297 tenant families are forced to live under the mercy of the DM. I request the Union Government and West Bengal Government to abrogate this unconstitutional provision.