

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding long pending demand of people of Darjeeling Hills, Terai and Dooars, West Bengal - Laid

SHRI RAJU BISTA (DARJEELING): The people of Darjeeling Hills, Terai, and Dooars have a long-pending political demand, which erupted as the Gorkhaland Statehood movement of 1986-1988, 2013-2014 and again in 2017.

The Government has already experimented twice by creating semi-autonomous bodies -- DGHC and GTA, both of which failed to address the demand for a permanent political solution to the long-pending demand for a separate State.

From the perspective of national-security, the area lies in the critical chicken-neck region that connects the North East with mainland India. Today, the region is vulnerable to illegal infiltration and severely lacks in development and economic progress.

Through this august House, I once again request the Government to intervene in the matter and initiate tripartite talks involving the Union Government, West Bengal Government, and Local representatives to find a permanent political solution to the long pending demands of the people at the earliest.