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Title: Regarding talks with Gorkha representatives - Laid

SHRI RAJU BISTA (DARJEELING): The people of Darjeeling Hills, Terai and Dooars have long struggled for a separate state which we know as the Gorkhaland agitations of 1986-88, 2007-11, 2013-14 and again in 2017.

Two failed experiments in the form of stop gap semi-autonomous bodies like DGHC and GTA, have failed to address the demand for a permanent political solution to this problem.

From the perspective of national security, a permanent solution will check cross-border illegal infiltration and help to secure our borders at the critical “chicken neck” region, The region today severely lags behind the rest of nation in terms of development and economic progress.

I request the central government to initiate tripartite talks involving the Centre, West Bengal government and Gorkha representatives. In case of a refusal by the WB Govt. for tripartite talks, I request the Union Government to appoint an interlocutor and start bipartite talks with Gorkha representatives at the earliest.