

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title:

**SHRI HOREN SING BEY (AUTONOMOUS DISTRICT):** Thank you very much, hon. Speaker Sir, for giving me this opportunity to deliver my maiden speech.

I rise to bring to the notice of this august House the long-standing political issue of the constituency I represent. The No. 3 Autonomous District ST Parliamentary constituency is a fully scheduled area administered by two Autonomous Councils under the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India. They are the Karbi-Anglong Autonomous Council and the North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council. These Councils are not mere district Councils but function like mini States with wide ranging executive and legislative powers which normally the State Governments exercise. The Government of Assam has a minimal role as far as development matters in these areas are concerned but the Councils themselves do not enjoy the status and financial resources of a normal State. This means that the Councils have assumed the responsibilities of a State but agencies like the NITI Aayog and the Finance Commission have no mandate to make exclusive grants and allocations for these areas. As a result, these Councils are at present facing 70 per cent revenue deficit and at Rs. 3,900, Karbi-Anglong has the lowest per capita Plan investment in the entire North-East. This unique contradiction could not be resolved during the past forty years, causing unmitigated civil strife, conflicts, and violence. Subsequent peace accords like the Tripartite MoU in 1995 and the MoS in 2011 only devolved more executive and legislative powers from the State to the Councils without allowing commensurate revenue sources.

The solution is provided in the Constitution itself and it has been there since 1969 in the form of Article 244 (A) which provides for establishment of an Autonomous State comprising of the two hill areas within the State of Assam. This provision would not only devolve executive and legislative powers of the State to the Councils without disturbing the territorial integrity but would also permit the Centre to apportion the resources of the State between the State and the Councils and also receive their entitlements from the Finance Commission. The BJP leaders have been consistently supporting the implementation of Article 244 (A) as evident from the fact that the former Deputy Prime Minister Shri L.K. Advani, while addressing the public at Kheroni Tinali in 2004, declared that if BJP came to power, they would consider implementation of the constitutional provision. In 2009, in the election campaign at Dokmoka, Shri Rajnath Singh, then Party President also announced that the BJP would earnestly consider the demand for the implementation of Article 244 (A).

**माननीय अध्यक्ष:** माननीय सदस्यगण, मैं फिर से आग्रह करना चाहता हूँ कि शून्य काल में संक्षिप्त में अपनी बात रखने का प्रयास करें।

13.24 hrs**NOMINATION TO PANEL OF CHAIRPERSONS**