

**Seventeenth Loksabha**

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**Title : Regarding inclusion of Darjeeling Hills Terai and Dooars region in the North East Council- Laid.**

**SHRI RAJU BISTA (DARJEELING):** Darjeeling hills, Terai and Dooars lie in the critical 'Chicken Neck' region of our Country, that connects the rest of our nation to North-East India. Our region has a distinct geological connectedness and continuity with the Northeast region. Our indigenous cultures, traditions, ethnicities, food habits, languages, lifestyle are immensely similar to the rest of the Northeast region.

Being a mountain region, our place faces immense developmental challenges, geographic and ecological hindrances, regional imbalances, deprivation and discrimination. Today, as the rest of North East region progresses, our Darjeeling Hills Terai and Dooars region has sadly remained far behind in terms of development and economic progress. Therefore, I appeal to the Government to kindly take steps to include our region in North East Council, so that our region too can benefit from the various Government initiatives being undertaken for the NE region.