

Title: Re: Demand for 3-tier panchayat elections in Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts.

SHRI RAJU BISTA (DARJEELING): The hill regions of Darjeeling and Kalimpong have been run without Panchayats since 2006. Our region was kept deprived of the Constitutionally guaranteed grassroots level governance system for the last 16 years. This has resulted in massive developmental deprivation in the region. Various Central Government schemes initiated by PM have not reached the people properly. Our people are deprived of basics roads, drinking water, schools, health care and all Government schemes.

Despite not conducting Panchayat elections, the State Government is spending the Panchayat funds meant for hill regions of Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts. The Central Government finally stopped funding meant for Panchayats in the hills under the 14th Finance Commission following which the State Government announced conducting Panchayat elections in the region.

But the State Government says, they will only conduct 2-tier Panchayat elections and 2-Tier Panchayat system is unconstitutional.

Therefore, respecting people's sentiment, I request the Ministry of Rural Development to order conducting of 3-tier Panchayat Elections in the Darjeeling and Kalimpong Districts.

माननीय सभापति: डॉ. राजदीप राय जी ? उपस्थित नहीं ।

श्री अजय निषाद जी ? उपस्थित नहीं ।

डॉ. मनोज राजोरिया ? उपस्थित नहीं ।

डॉ. रमापति राम त्रिपाठी ? उपस्थित नहीं ।