

Regarding establishment of AIIMS in North Bengal-laid

SHRI RAJU BISTA (DARJEELING): North Bengal comprises 8 districts out of the 23 districts of West Bengal Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Alipurduar, Jalpaiguri, Cooch Behar, North Dinajpur, South Dinajpur and Malda. Our region is home to around 3 crore people. Majority of the people are dependent on working for the tea estates, cinchona or are engaged in farming for their sustenance. The average monthly income of a family in our region is only around Rs 7000 per month. Due to low income, people here cannot afford treatment in private hospitals Government run facilities are inadequately staffed, and lack even the most basic equipment. Most of the hospitals, especially in hilly region offer only referral service ? every patient is referred to hospitals in the plains. Hundreds of patients from our region die, due to the lack of proper healthcare facility. Patients who need specialized care like pregnant women and children are dying due to lack of proper facilities. Central Government had earlier granted funds for the establishment of AIIMS, but it was taken to South Bengal. Our region and people continue to suffer due to lack of health facilities. In the given circumstances, there is an urgent need to establish AIIMS in North Bengal.