

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4138
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2009
TRIPARTITE MEETING
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a tripartite meeting was held between the Union Government, State Government of West Bengal and Gorkha Janshakti Manch recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of the meeting?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN)

(a) & (b): The third round of tripartite talks between the representatives of the Government of India, Government of West Bengal and Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) was held on 11-08-2009.

In the meeting, the following decisions were taken:

- i. The proposal for establishment of a Hill Council under the Sixth Schedule of Indian Constitution would be dropped.
- ii. It was agreed, in principle, to the repeal of the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council Act, 1988. The repeal of the Act would be processed by the Government of West Bengal as soon as an alternative administrative setup/ framework is finalized through mutual consultations and agreement between the State Government and GJM.
- iii. The Government would appoint an Interlocutor to carry forward the discussions held during the third round of tripartite talks.
- iv. The Central Government would send a team to Darjeeling to review the development works in the District.
- v. As an interim measure and to restore the democratic process, the elections to the Panchyats Samities, Gram Panchayats as well as Municipalities be allowed to be held.
- vi. It was agreed that the next tripartite meeting would be held on 21-12-2009 at Darjeeling.

A Central team visited the region from September 29 to October 2, 2009 to review the development in the Darjeeling Hill Area. The Government has appointed an interlocutor for the purpose of handling talks with all the stakeholders in this regard.