

Title: Need for all-round development of Dakshin Dinajpur and Uttar Dinajpur districts in West Bengal.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Sir, the most backward district of West Bengal was West Dinajpur district on the border of Bangladesh till 1992. It was divided into two Administrative Districts known as Dakshin Dinajpur and Uttar Dinajpur during 1992. Both these districts are having no industries as such worth engaging 500 people for job. Both the districts have extreme agricultural potentials provided the medium and minor irrigation schemes are sufficiently augmented through Plan fund by the Union and State Governments. Road, health and educational infrastructure are extremely poor in these two districts having no Engineering, Medical or Law Faculty in the professional higher education as well as women education. The National Highway No.34 links these two districts insignificantly with the rest of Bengal and India as well as with the North East. Balurghat Raiganj, being the District Headquarter of Dakshin and Uttar Dinajpur, is facing serious problems. Rural electrification and flood management of these two districts should be given top priority by the Planning Commission immediately by the end of the Ninth Plan.

Muslims, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and refugees are dominant part of the inhabitants of these two districts. No major treatment centres for heart, kidney, paediatric and eyes are at all available in these two districts.

I call upon the Government to integrate their plan with the State Government for these two districts on the aforesaid matters and specially of health infrastructure, road infrastructure, rural electrification and flood management.