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Title: Need to constitute a Commission for all-round development of Gorkha people and declare their festival 'Bhatri Ditiya' as a National Holiday.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (LAKHIMPUR): For centuries together the migrated population from the present territory of Nepal is contributing greatly to the development of India who are recognized as an integral part of the Indian society commonly known as 'Gorkhas'. Their active role in defending the country is highly acclaimed. The Gorkha Regiment continued to be a credible contingent of Indian Army. Their significant role in the economic development of the country through agriculture, animal husbandry and diary farming is greatly recognized by all. They also continued to be a reliable work force in the country from the time of British rule. But the all round development of this community did not get due attention of the Union Government in the past. As such, they remain underdeveloped in many areas. Except enlisting their language in the Eight schedule of our Constitution during eighties, not much has been done for the all round development of this community. As a result they are left behind on many fronts.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to constitute a Commission or a Development council to look after the grievances of this community for the development of their culture, language and economic condition. On the other hand, the only important festival of the Gorkhas the "Bhatri Ditiya" which is also celebrated by many other communities throughout India should be declared as a National Holiday.

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