

Title: Need to make Kalimpong, as a transit point for promoting trade with Tibet -Laid.

SHRI D. NARBULA (DARJEELING) : It is about opening Jelep-la Trade Route to Tibet-Autonomous Region of China. Jelep-la is an important landmark connecting Sikkim with Tibet and is equally important as the other part of Nathula located close by.

Jelep-la was the main pass through which most of the inland trade between Tibet flourished through Kalimpong (India) particularly after 1904 Colonel Young Husband's expedition to Tibet via Jelep-la.

A British agent was stationed in Yatung or Shigatse for purpose of trade and transit. Kalimpong became the Chief trading outpost both in import and export of goods and commodities.

Prior to 1962 Jelep-la was more important and useable pass for export/import from India via Kalimpong. Earlier to 1962 Kalimpong was the main station for dumping commodities brought from Tibet and also for packaging and re-shipment of export commodities from India to Tibet.

The Kalimpong- Jelep-la route was the shortest possible route to Lhasa and like wise from Lhasa to India. As a result both Kalimpong and Jelep-la played leading roles in carrying the business activities of export and import.

In order to provide development assistance to the people of Kalimpong it is imperative that Kalimpong be converted into a transit point or an intermediary point for dumping all commercial goods entering into India from Tibet via Jelep-la like that is in the earlier days before 1962.