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Title: Need to give 'peace bonus' to the State of Sikkim.

SHRI NAKUL DAS RAI (SIKKIM):The State of Sikkim, located in a geographically strategic position, bordering China, Nepal and Bhutan is the most peaceful state in the North Eastern region. Peace and political stability have been hallmark of the state over the years. Reopening of the Nathula Pass last year has also made Sikkim a facilitator of bilateral trade between India and China.

While states in Northeast unfortunately have been affected by insurgency, our state has witnessed no such violent movements. General law and order situation in the state is among the best in the country. Economic development of the state has been given top priority by the state government.

Peace has no alternative and people of Sikkim bears testimony to this. Communal harmony and tolerance are practiced by the population of the state. Sikkim has a pluralistic character with several diverse communities coexisting peacefully and fully protected by the state government. With the people of Sikkim having nationalist mindset and the state government providing support to all sections of the society, democracy has taken firm roots in the state.

Taking all these issues into account, I earnestly urge the Centre to consider granting peace bonus to Sikkim to make it a prosperous state of India. There have been precedents before where states of the Northeastern region have been granted peace bonus for maintaining peace and stability. The Centre should also extend assistance to the peace loving people of Sikkim for their uplift.