

>

Title: Regarding need to ensure uninterrupted supply of essential commodities through NH-31 A to Sikkim via Darjeeling, West Bengal.

SHRI NAKUL DAS RAI (SIKKIM): The ongoing Gorkha agitation in the Darjeeling district of West Bengal has Drought the economy and life in the State of Sikkim to a standstill. The situation has been further worsened because filled petrol tankers are not being allowed to enter into the State.

This kind of disturbance is happening since 1985 when the Gorkha movement started. Besides this, political activities of different parties have been affecting traffic on NH 31A, which is Sikkim's only link to rest of India. Tourists, other passengers and goods vehicles to Sikkim are getting frequently stranded on NH 31A due to the political turmoil in Darjeeling. If the current agitation in Darjeeling continues, then there will be acute shortage of essential commodities like petroleum and food grains in Sikkim. It will also adversely impact the State's tourism industry and therefore its economy.

It is painful to find that Sikkim's suffering is not being adequately addressed. Life in the state often gets affected without any fault of the local administration but due to prevailing situation in the neighbouring State. Sikkim has been the most peaceful and progressive State and can be a role model for other states in the country.

I, therefore, request the Union Government to initiate steps for uninterrupted supply of essential commodities through NH- 31A to Sikkim via Darjeeling, West Bengal.

---