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Title: Regarding setting up of circuit bench of Kolkata High Court at Jalpaiguri, West Bengal.

\*SHRI NRIPENDRA NATH ROY (COOCH BEHAR): Mr. Chairman Sir, through you I would like to draw the kind attention of Hon. Minister of Law to a very urgent matter of public importance. Sir, the people of North Bengal are fighting for a circuit bench in Jalpaiguri since the year 1963 in order to get speedy justice. The Government of India had recognized and appreciated the struggle and sentiments of the people and thus in 2001, August 3, the then Law Minister had communicated to the Hon. Chief Minister through a letter that a circuit bench would be set up in Jalpaiguri. After getting the go-ahead signals from the Central and State Governments and the Hon. High Court of Kolkata, the district administration of Jalpaiguri earmarked 41 acres of land of which 122 luxurious flats were constructed for the residential purposes of lawyers and judges. All the modern furniture and amenities were also provided to them. To inquire into that in 2006 the Additional Secretary of Hon. Law Minister Shri Rabikaran Barma went to Jalpaiguri and after conducting the enquiry, he presented the status report to the Central Government. Then on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2006, the cabinet took a decision.

I quote, "The Union Cabinet do confer power on the Chief Justice of Kolkata High Court to order sitting judges and division code of the High Court as such other place or places in the state of West Bengal with the approval of the Government of the state."

Though this decision has long been taken, the bench has not yet been set up. 13,000 cases pertaining to the people of North Bengal are still pending in the Kolkata High Court. Thus I urge upon the Hon. Minister through you to constitute the circuit bench at Jalpaiguri as early as possible. On 24<sup>th</sup> July 2004, the Madurai Circuit Bench has been set up but our demand has not yet been met. So I demand that it should be immediately constituted for the benefit of the common people. With these words I thank you for giving me this opportunity and conclude my speech.