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Title: Need to announce a special package and open Hindi medium schools in Duars area of North Bengal.

\*SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR (BALURGHAT) : Mr. Chairman Sir, the Duars area of North Bengal is an area of tea gardens which were set up by the Britishers. The labourers were brought from Bihar's Ranchi district. These people are tribal people and their mother tongue is Hindi. But the language which is used in the schools of North Bengal is Bengali. Though this is a state subject as it is concerned with education, yet I want to raise this issue in Parliament because it is an important matter. There are certain Hindi medium schools in the region but more such schools and colleges need to be opened. Hindi is the national language. There are many committees which are trying to spread and propagate Hindi. My request, through you sir, to the Hon. Minister of Education would be to help the people learn Hindi by opening Hindi Medium schools. Along with that, let me point out that some Nepali-speaking people also stay in that region who had come from Nepal. But there is dearth of Nepali teachers in schools. So I would like to draw the kind attention of the Government to this issue and urge upon the Minister to appoint Nepali teachers.

Thirdly, that area is partly forested. Not only tribals but people of other communities also are inhabitants of those forests but the facilities are enjoyed only by the tribal population. They have been staying there for hundreds of years. So these people are deprived of the Government's welfare measures and discontentment is growing among them. My humble submission to the Government is that these forest dwellers should be taken care of and some laws must to be amended for this purpose so that they do not feel disconnected from the mainstream. I also want to mention that the Duars region is a backward area and the people are very underdeveloped. So I urge upon the Government to announce

a special package for this place.

With these words, I thank you for allowing me to speak in the Zero Hours.