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Title : Need for all-round development of North Bengal.

*SHRI PRASANTA KUMAR MAJUMDAR (BALURGHAT) : Hon. Speaker Madam, you must be aware that the state of West Bengal is divided into two parts - South Bengal and North Bengal. The latter is extremely important not only to the state but also to the entire country for various reasons. North Bengal is surrounded by China, Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh etc. On August 2, Hon. Prime Minister of India took a meeting with the security officials of the country regarding the internal security of the nation. It was a very high level meeting you all know. In that meeting the role of China was discussed threadbare. China has already crossed Lhasa to reach Sikkim and Darjiling through Bhutan and Nepal. It has also reached even Siliguri. Thus North Bengal is occupying a very significant position in the country as it is a bordering area. So we need to consolidate the military bases in that region. Meanwhile various foreign powers are trying to build up contacts with the separatist groups operating in the area. There are KLOs, Gorkha Mukti Morcha, Greater Cooch Behar and KPP insurgents who are regularly disrupting normal life in North Bengal by instilling fear in the minds of ordinary people. Therefore we need to strengthen the entire stretch militarily. Why did North Bengal transform into such a place?

It was such a nice place with tea gardens, orange orchards timber manufacturing units all around. This area is very important from the point of view of the foreign exchange earnings of this country. The tea gardens are gradually de-generating - the labourers do not get their due. Their Provident Funds have been grabbed by the garden owners. We've seen that the land there is very fertile Teesta, Jaldhaka rivers flow in the region. The Teesta Project should be taken up in right earnest to do away with the economic disparity. North Bengal is deprived of all basic facilities. The foreign powers are trying to intrude here. It is a matter of national concern. Through you I'd like to request the Government of India to take necessary action in this regard. I thank you for allowing me to speak and conclude.