

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5188**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 24TH MARCH, 2026/ CHAITRA 3, 1948 (SAKA)

GORKHALAND TERRITORIAL ADMINISTRATION ACT

5188. SHRI BAPI HALDAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the appointment of a Central interlocutor to pursue a “permanent political solution” for Gorkha issues was made without prior consultation with the Government of West Bengal, if so, the reasons for non-consultation with the State Government;

(b) the manner in which this appointment aligns with the 2011 Tripartite Memorandum of Agreement and the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration Act, 2011; and

(c) the interlocutor’s notified terms of reference, timeline and disclosure plan?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI NITYANAND RAI)**

(a) to (c): After the signing of the tripartite agreement between the Government of India, the Government of West Bengal and the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha in July, 2011, a body called the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) was formed. In July 2017, all elected members of the GTA resigned.

In view of non-existence of elected members in the GTA and long and repeated requests for dialogue by the Gorkha leaders, three tripartite

meetings were convened by Ministry of Home Affairs on 07.10.2020, 12.10.2021 and 03.04.2025. There was no representation of Government of West Bengal in two tripartite meetings and no substantial representation in one meeting.

Thereafter, the Government of India has appointed Interlocutor to hold constructive dialogue with various stakeholders including representatives of Gorkha organizations on issues related to Gorkhas in the Darjeeling Hills, Terai and Dooars region of Darjeeling district of West Bengal. The period of appointment of the Interlocutor is one year.

The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the interlocutor are as follows:

(i) To undertake constructive dialogue with various stakeholders including representatives of Gorkha organizations on the issues relating to Gorkhas in Darjeeling Hills, Tarai and Dooars region of West Bengal and suggest measures to resolve issues and roadmap in this regard.

(ii) To hold discussions with other stakeholders in Darjeeling Hills, Tarai and Dooars region of West Bengal in this regard.

(iii) Recommend measures for socio-economic upliftment, cultural recognition, and preservation of cultural heritage of Gorkhas in the region, and addressing their aspirations within the Constitutional framework.