

**LETTER FROM BANGLA O BANGLA BHASHA BANCHAO COMMITTEE TO THE  
DIVISIONAL COMMISSIONER JALPAIGURI DIVISION REQUESTING THE  
IDENTIFICATION OF FOREIGN NEPALEES AND DELETION OF THEIR NAMES FROM THE  
ELECTORAL ROLL**

March 13, 2011



বাংলার পুনর্জাগরণের আলোর দিশারী

**বাংলা ও বাংলা ভাষা বাঁচাও কমিটি**

**Bangla O Bangla Bhasha Banchao Committee**

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Dated 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2011

To

The Divisional Commissioner, Jalpaiguri Division,  
Jalpaiguri

Dear Sir,

**Sub: Deletion of names of foreign Nepalese from Electoral Rolls –in the District of Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri & Coochbehar**

I, on behalf of BANGLA O BANGLA BHASHA BANCHAO COMMITTEE, am writing to you desperately seeking your kind help and guidance in the matter neglected for more than half a century, ruining the Bengali lands, language and community for want of justice.

At long last, since 2007 after repeated prayers to the Election Commission by our Organisation, the Chief Electoral Officer, Govt. of West Bengal has just written to the District Magistrate of Darjeeling to take necessary action regarding the above subject.

But this is not a simple job which cannot be completed within a fortnight. If the reply is that there is no foreign Nepalese in the Electoral Rolls, the matter does not end there. A deeper consideration is necessary. The process of identification of all foreign Nepalese who infiltrated after 26.01.1945 and deletion of their names from Electoral Rolls in Darjeeling and adjoining areas should be started forthwith. Half of all Nepalese in Darjeeling district and adjoining areas are not Indian citizens.

The question of citizenship of Nepalese was specified in the Extra Ordinary Gazette Notification by the Govt. of India on 23-08-1988 after the formation of Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council on 22-08-1988. The Operative Portion reads

“and whereas it is considered necessary to clear such misconception, it is clarified as follows  
.....as from the commencement of the Constitution of India viz. from 26.01.1950 because a part or constituted the territory of India as defined in Article 1(2) of the constitution of India and (A) who was born in the territory of India or (B) either whose parents were born in the territory of India or (C) who had been ordinarily residing in the territory of India for not less than 5 years prior to such commencement shall be a citizen of India as provided in the Article of the Constitution of India.”

Again the Clause VII of 1950 Indo-Nepal Treaty clearly says that Nepalees coming from Nepal to settle in India after 1950 will never get Indian citizenship and will not be eligible to take part in politics and will not have any right to vote.

Moreover, about 5 lacs out of 9 lacs foreign Nepalese expelled by Bhutan settled in Siliguri, Doars and other places should be disfranchised.

I would like to draw your kind attention to the method adopted in Assam to identify foreigners as per Ancestral Linkage. But for the districts of Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri and Coochbehar in addition to the Linkage of Ancestry, the Electoral Rolls of 1950 Election would be the ideal basis of identification/detection of foreign Nepalese and to delete their names from Electoral Rolls satisfactorily.

Yours sincerely  
Dr M Majumdar  
President

**AN APPEAL FROM BANGLA O BANGLA BHASHA**  
**BANCHAO COMMITTEE**

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March 17, 2010

Please wake up Bengalis- your motherland needs you. We are on the verge of extinction. Stop playing to the petty politics of CPM, TMC, Congress and BJP etc.

‘Maa Mati Manush’ is just as big a fraud as is the ‘dictatorship of the proletariat’

Neither Mamata, nor Buddha nor any politician in Bengal cares about your future.

Your land, your language and your culture is at stake.

**DRAFT OF THE LETTER CIRCULATED TO THE SCHOOLS  
WITHIN PROPOSED GORKHALAND AREA**

To

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.....

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**Sub: Gorkha Traditional Dress for the Gorkha students**

Sir/Madam,

This is to inform you that Gorkha Janamukti Morcha, Central committee has decided to appeal to all the Gorkha students from class X onwards to wear Gorkha Traditional dress i.e. Daura Surural for boys and Choubandi Choli and Fariya for girls compulsorily to preserve the age old culture and tradition of the Gorkha Community and as a part of cultural revolution from 7<sup>th</sup> October to 7<sup>th</sup> November 2008 in the proposed Gorkhaland Area.

You are, therefore, requested to kindly instruct all Gorkha students and teaching and non-teaching staff to wear our traditional dress. This cultural agitation of ours is to boost the demand for the creation of a separate State of “Gorkhaland”.

**Yours sincerely**

Roshan Giri  
General Secretary  
GJMM, Central Committee

# GORKHALAND TERRITORIAL ADMINISTRATION MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

Whereas the Gorkha Janamukti Morcha (GJM) has been demanding for quite sometime past a separate State of Gorkhaland for the hill areas of Darjeeling district including some areas of Siliguri Terai and Dooars (hereinafter referred to as the Region) ;

And

Whereas both the Government of India and the Government of West Bengal have repeatedly emphasized the need for keeping the region as an integral part of the State of West Bengal ;

And

Whereas after several rounds of tripartite meetings at the ministerial and at the official levels, the GJM, while not dropping their demand for a separate State of Gorkhaland, has agreed to the setting up of an autonomous Body (hereinafter referred to as the new Body) empowered with administrative, financial and executive powers in regard to various subjects to be transferred to the said Body for the development of the region and restoration of peace and normalcy there at;

And

Whereas the objective of this Agreement is to establish an autonomous self governing Body to administer the region so that the socio-economic, infrastructural, educational, cultural, and linguistic, development is expedited and the ethnic identity of Gorkhas established, thereby achieving all round development of the people of the region ;

And

Whereas all issues including issues relating to transfer of subjects to the new Body have been agreed in various tripartite meetings at the official level;

And

Whereas after several round of Tripartite discussions between the Government of India, the Government of West Bengal and the GJM, an agreement was reached in respect of all

the issues; Now, therefore, the Government of India, the Government of West Bengal and the GJM, keeping on record the demand of the GJM for a separate State of Gorkhaland, agree as follows:-

1) An autonomous Body, which shall be called the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA), will be formed through direct election. A Bill for this purpose will be introduced in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly;

2) While under the provisions of the Constitution transfer of legislative powers to the new Body is not possible, the power to frame rules / regulations under the State Acts to control, regulate and administer the departments / offices and subjects transferred to the new Body will be conferred upon the new Body ;

3) The administrative, executive and financial powers in respect of the subjects transferred will be vested in such a way that the new Body may function in an autonomous and effective way;

4) The subjects alongwith all Departments / Offices to be transferred to the new Body is appended as Annexure – ‘A’.

5) The area of the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration shall comprise the areas of the entire subdivisions of Darjeeling, Kalimpong with extended areas of Kurseong. In regard to transfer of additional areas of Siliguri Terai and Dooars to the new Body, a High-Powered Committee will be formed comprising four representatives of GJM, three representatives of the State Government (one from the Home Department; the District Magistrate, Darjeeling; the District Magistrate, Jalpaiguri); the Director of Census Operations representing Government of India, apart from the Chairman of the Committee to be appointed by the State Government. The Chairperson of the Board of Administrators, DGHC will be the convener of this Committee. The Committee will look into the question of identification of additional areas in Siliguri Terai and Dooars that may be transferred to the new Body, having regard to their compactness, contiguity, homogeneity, ground level situation and other relevant factors.

The Committee will be expected to give its recommendations within a short period, preferably within six months of its constitution.

6) The work of this High-Powered Committee will run parallel to the electoral process which will be based on the existing area delimitation. However, the empowering statute will have a provision for transfer of the additional areas from Siliguri Terai and Dooars that may be agreed upon, based on the recommendation of this Committee.

7) In regard to transfer of all forests including reserved forest, it was agreed that the State Government will make a reference to the Central Government on the issue of reserved forest as the power delegated to the State Government under the Central statute cannot be delegated to any other authority straightaway. However, all offices catering to the unreserved forests under the jurisdiction of GTA would also be transferred to GTA.

Regarding Tribal status to Gorkhas except the Scheduled Castes, the GJM or any organisation representing the Gorkhas will make an application to the Backward Classes Welfare Department of the State Government, which is the authority to process such claims. The Department, upon receiving such application supported by necessary documents will conduct a study through the Cultural Research Institute, Kolkata. After examination by the Department, the matter will be referred to the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes. The recommendations already submitted to the National Commission will be followed up by the State Government. The Government of India will consider for granting ST status to all the Gorkhas excepting SC.

9) In regard to regularization of all ad-hoc, casual, daily wage workers of DGHC, regularization by way of outright absorption is not feasible due to the current legal position as enunciated by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. However, those employees who have put in 10 years of continuous service would be guided by the Finance Department's order of 23rd April, 2010. Those outside this ambit would be extended an enhancement in wages. This would be equivalent to 75% of the remuneration admissible under the order of the Finance Department subject to a minimum of 5,000/- per month for those who have not completed 10 years of continuous service.

As and when they complete 10 years of continuous service, they will be eligible for the full benefit in terms of the order of 23rd April, 2010. The employees will, however, have the liberty to apply for normal recruitment to any other posts of State Government. It was also agreed that the State Government will make necessary financial provisions for bearing the additional non-plan expenditure for this purpose.

10) There shall be a GTA Sabha for the GTA. There shall be a Chairman and Deputy Chairman to conduct the business of Council. The GTA Sabha shall consist of fortyfive elected members and five members to be nominated by the Governor to give representation to members of SC, ST, women, and minority communities. The M.Ps, M.L.As, and Chairpersons of municipality(s) of the region shall be Ex-officio Members to this GTA Sabha. The term of the GTA shall be five years.

11) The Executive Body shall consist of a Chief Executive who will nominate fourteen members out of the elected / nominated members as Executive Member. One of them shall be the Deputy Chief to be nominated by the Chief Executive.

12) Every member of the GTA shall before taking seat make and subscribe before the Governor or one of the elected members appointed in that behalf by him an oath or affirmation. The Chief Executive shall be administered an oath or affirmation by the Governor.

13) There shall be a Principal Secretary of the GTA, who shall be of the rank of the Principal Secretary/Secretary to the State Government and who shall be selected by the Chief Executive from the panel sent by the State Government and shall be paid from the GTA Fund such salaries and allowances as may be fixed by the State Government. The Principal Secretary once deputed to the GTA shall not be transferred for a period of at least two years without the consent of the GTA.

14) The Government of India and the Government of West Bengal will provide all possible assistance to the GTA for the overall development of the region. The Government of India will provide financial assistance of Rs. 200 crore (Rupees Two Hundred Crore) per annum for 3 years for projects to develop the socio-economic infrastructure in GTA over and above the normal plan assistance to the State of West Bengal. A list of projects which may be considered to be taken up by the GTA is at Annexure 'B1'. List of projects to be separately taken up by the GTA with the State/Central Government is at 'B2'.

15) The Government of India/ State Government will provide one time financial assistance required for development of administrative infrastructure viz., GTA Sabha House, Secretariat Complex and the residential quarters for the elected members of GTA and the senior officers.

16) The allocation sanctioned in the budget of GTA and all funds sanctioned by the State or the Union Government which remain unspent at the close of the financial year shall be taken into account for the purpose of providing additional resources in the Budget of the following year or years and the fund requirements will be met on a yearly basis.

17) The Government of West Bengal shall provide formula based plan fund with 60 per cent weightage on population and the balance weightage on area backwardness, hill areas and border areas in two equal installments every year for executing development works.

18) The Government of West Bengal shall provide Non-plan grant including provisions for bearing the additional Non-plan expenditure for existing employees payable in two installments in respect of the offices / departments transferred to GTA.

19) The fund received from the Government of India shall not be diverted and the State Government shall release the fund in time.

20) The GTA will have the power of creating Group B, C and D posts with the approval of Governor. The recruitment to Group B, C and D posts will be through a Subordinate Service Selection Board to be set up for this purpose.

21) The State Public Service Commission shall be consulted for the recruitment of Group 'A' officers.

22) The State Government will set-up a separate School Service Commission, College Service Commission; open an office of the Regional Pension and Provident Directorate; and set up an office for Registration of land, building etc., marriage, society etc. in the GTA area, subject to extant rules and regulations.

23) The Governor of West Bengal shall obtain a report on the functioning of the GTA and cause that report to be laid on the table of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly annually.

24) The Government of West Bengal will initiate action to re-organize / re-constitute the territorial jurisdictions of sub-divisions and blocks.

25) The GTA, once established, will separately take up the issues relating to grant of incentives, subsidies, waiver of taxes and tariff and other benefits as appropriate to the region's backwardness, with the Central and State Governments.

26) A three-tier Panchayat will be constituted by elections in the GTA region, subject to the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution of India. Notwithstanding anything contained in the West Bengal Panchayat Act 1973, or the West Bengal Municipal Act, 1993, the GTA shall exercise general powers of supervision over the Panchayats and the Municipalities.

Since the formation of new authority will take some time and since the developmental works in the hills, which have already suffered badly, cannot be allowed to suffer further, there will be a Board of Administrators in DGHC which would be fully empowered to exercise all the powers and functions of the Chief Executive Councilor under the DGHC Act, 1988 and to decide on the much needed developmental works in the hills. The Board of Administrators will comprise MLA, Darjeeling; MLA, Kurseong ; MLA, Kalimpong ; District Magistrate, Darjeeling and Administrator, DGHC in keeping with the provisions of the sub-section (1) of Section 17 of the DGHC Act as amended vide Kolkata Gazette Notification of 22nd March, 2005.

28) The GJM agrees to ensure that peace and normalcy will be maintained in the region.



29) A review will be done by the State Government of all the cases registered under various laws against persons involved in the GJM agitation. Steps will be taken in the light of the review, not to proceed with prosecution in all cases except those charged with murder. Release of persons in custody will follow the withdrawal of cases.

30) The GTA youth would be considered for recruitment in the Police, Army and Para Military Forces subject to their suitability for such appointment.

31) The implementation of the provision of the Memorandum of Agreement shall be periodically reviewed by a committee representing the Government of India, Government of West Bengal and GJM.

32) The Government of West Bengal shall repeal the DGHC Act, 1988 along with formation of GTA to be constituted by an Act of the legislature.

Signed on 18th July, 2011 at Darjeeling in the presence of Shri P. Chidambaram, Hon'ble Union Home Minister and Mamata Banerjee, Hon'ble Chief Minister, West Bengal.

Signatories

**(Dr. G.D. Gautama)**

Additional Chief Secretary,

Home & Hill Affairs Department, for and on behalf of the Government of West Bengal

**(Shri Rooshan Giri )**

General Secretary,

Gorkha Janmukti Morcha, for and on behalf of the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha

**(Shri K.K. Pathak)**

Joint Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs for and on behalf of the Government of India

**Annexure 'A'**

**List of Subjects to be transferred to the GTA**

(1) Agriculture, including agricultural education and research protecting against pest and prevention of plants diseases; Horticulture, Floriculture and Food processing;

(2) Animal Husbandry and Veterinary, that is to say preservation, protection and improvement of stock and prevention of animal diseases, veterinary training and practices, cattle pounds; Dairy development;

(3) Cooperation;

(4) Information and Cultural Affairs

(5) School Education including primary education, secondary education, higher secondary education (including vocational training): Physical Education; Government Schools.

(6) College Education including Agricultural and Technical Colleges, Local Management of Government sponsored Colleges; Mass Education and Physical Education; Engineering, Medical, Management, and Information Technology with Government and Government sponsored colleges for which wings /cells shall have to be created by the GTA for the area under its jurisdiction;

(7) Adult Education and Library Services;

(8) Fisheries;

(9) Irrigation, drainage and embankments, floods and landslide protection;

(10) Food and Civil Supplies; Consumer Affairs;

(11) Management of any forest, not being Reserved Forest; [Explanation – ‘Reserved Forest’ shall mean a reserved forest as constituted under Indian Forest Act 1927 (16 of 1927)];

(12) Cottage & Small Scale Industries including sericulture, handloom and textiles; handicrafts and Khadi and Village industries;

(13) Cinchona plantation and settlement of land in possession of the plantation inhabitants: management of lease of cinchona lands etc. under it.

(14) Woman and Child Development and Social Welfare;

(15) District Sainik Board;

(16) “Health including Public Health and Family welfare” including hospitals, dispensaries, health centres and sanatoriums, establishing a Nurses Training School;

(17) Intoxicating liquors, opium derivatives subject to the provisions of Entry 84 of List I of the Seventh Schedule; distilleries – control and regulation, Bonded House and raising of revenue;

(18) Irrigation;

(19) Water Resources Investigation and Minor Irrigation;

(20) Labour and Employment;

(21) Land & Land Revenue including allotment, occupation or use, setting apart of land other than land with reserved forest for the purposes of agriculture or grazing or for residential or other non-agricultural purposes to promote interest of the people;

(22) Library services (financed and controlled by the State Government);

(23) Lotteries (subject to the provisions of the Entry 40 of the List I of the Seventh Schedule);

(24) Theatre, dramatic performances and cinemas (subject to the provisions of the Entry 60 of List I of the Seventh Schedule); Sports; entertainment and amusements;

(25) Markets and fairs;

(26) Municipal corporation, improvement of trust, district boards and other local authorities; Fire Services;

(27) Museum and archeology institutions controlled or financed by the State, ancient and historical monuments and records other than those declared by or under any Law made by Parliament to be of national importance;

(28) Panchayat and Rural Development including District Rural Development Agency (DRDA);

(29) Planning and Development;

(30) Printing and Stationery;

(31) Public Health Engineering; Public Works Department including work relating to State Highways as well as the responsibility discharged by the State Government for maintenance of National Highways within the jurisdiction of GTA;

(33) Publicity and Public Relations including Regulation of Media – both Print and Electronic media;

(34) Registration of births and deaths;

(35) Relief and Rehabilitation, establishing a branch of disaster management in consultation with NDMA under the extant laws/rules.

(36) Sericulture;

(37) Small, cottage and rural industry subject to the provisions of Entries 7 and 52 of List I of the Seventh Schedule;

(38) Social Welfare; including part of SC & ST Development and Finance Corporation under GTA area;

(39) Soil conservation;

(40) Sports and Youth Welfare;

(41) Statistics;

(42) Tourism: Tourism infrastructure within the jurisdiction of the GTA catering to the area of GTA would be transferred to GTA. However, GTA may set up its own wing of Tourism Development Corporation for the area under its jurisdiction;

(43) Transport (roads, bridges, ferries and other means of communication not specified in List I of the Seventh Schedule, municipal tramways, ropeways, inland waterways and traffic thereon, subject to the provision of Entry 40 of List I and List III of the Seventh Schedule with regard to such waterways, vehicles and other mechanically propelled vehicles);

(44) The State Government will consider opening an RTO Office in the GTA area however; powers vested with the DM at present would remain with him only.

(45) Tribal research institution controlled and financed by the State Government;

(46) Urban development – town and country planning;

(47) Weights and measures subject to the provisions of Entry 50 of List I of the Seventh Schedule;

- 48) Welfare of plain tribes and backward classes subject to the area being under GTA only;
- (49) Welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes;
- (50) Welfare of Minorities;
- (51) Management and settlement of land including markets and market sheds controlled by the Darjeeling Improvement Fund;
- (52) Minor Minerals and Mineral development (subject to the provisions of Entry 23 of List II of the Seventh Schedule);
- (53) Rural electrification;
- (54) Renewable sources of energy including water-power (subject to Entry 56 of List I and Entry 38 of List III of the Seventh Schedule);
- (55) Sharing electricity with GTA subject to evolving a mutually agreeable formula with the State government.
- (56) Pounds and prevention of cattle trespass;
- (57) Management of burial grounds and cremation grounds;
- (58) Regulation of Cable channels; to the extent the powers of Central Act, i.e. the Cable Television Network (Regulation) Amendment Act, 2002 vests with the State government;
- (59) Tauzi: Tauzi Department of the Collectorate.

#### **Annexure 'B1'**

#### **LIST OF PROJECTS TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE GTA TO DEVELOP THE PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE GTA AREA IN ORDER TO ACCELERATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION**

1. Comprehensive water supply system in the new body area;
2. Multi-super specialty Medical College and Hospital;

3. Establishment of Hospitality and Tourism Management Institute;
4. Establishment of a College of Nursing;
5. Establishment of a Gorkha House at New Delhi;
6. Establishment of an Institute for Research and Development of the Nepali Language;
7. Establishment of a Cultural Institute to preserve, promote and develop culture, tradition, heritage of the people of the region;
8. Establishment of Research and Development Institute for Tea and Cinchona;
9. Research and Development Institute for Horticulture, Floriculture;
10. Balasan Drinking Water Project to be taken up by the Union Government and be declared as a National Project;
11. Sidrabong Hydro Project has been declared a National Heritage but neglected. Funds for its maintenance and upkeep;
12. Food processing, agro-processing complex and cold storage;
13. Creation and development of the IT industry in this region;
14. A new bridge connecting Dooars to be constructed over the Teesta River as the only Coronation Bridge has become very old and it may collapse any time;
15. Mini and Micro Hydro Projects in GTA;
16. Establishment of Eight Multi disciplinary College different areas of the Region;
17. Establishment of Veterinary Hospitals;
18. High School/Higher Secondary School for every twenty-five villages;
19. Processing plants for Cinchona at Mungpoo;
20. Establishment of Polytechnics for all subdivisions;

**21. 2 ITIs / Vocational Institutes in each subdivision**

## **INTERVIEW SCHEDULE**

(For members of Gorkha Jan Mukti Morcha)

### **MULTICULTURALISM AND IDENTITY POLITICS: A STUDY OF GORKHALAND AND KAMTAPUR MOVEMENTS IN WEST BENGAL**

*(The information collected is confidential and shall be used for academic purpose only)*

**\*TICK THE CORRECT OPTION**

#### **PART I- SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF GORKHA JANMUKTI MORCHA MEMBERS**

- 1.1 Name:**.....
- 1.2 Post held in GJM if any:**.....
- 1.3 Address:**.....
- 1.4 Age:** (a) 18-30      (b) 31-45      (c) 46-60      (d) 61 and above
- 1.5 Religion:** (a) Hindu (b) Muslim      (c) Christian      (d) Buddhist      (e) Any other
- 1.6 Caste:** (a) Gen      (b) SC      (c) ST      (d) OBC      (e) MOBC
- 1.7 Educational Qualification:** (a) Illiterate (b) Primary (c) ME (d) High (e) Matriculate (f) Higher Secondary (g) Graduation and above (h) Any other degree.....
- 1.8 Occupation:** .....
- 1.9 Marital Status:** (a) Married      (b) Unmarried      (c) Widow      (d) Divorced
- 1.10 Does your father/husband/any family member belong to any political party?**  
(a) Yes      (b) No
- If yes, name of the party to which they belong:** (a) Congress      (b) BJP      (c) CPI      (d) GNLF  
(e) GJM      (f) Any other.....

#### **PART II: GORKHA JANMUKTI MORCHA: PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES**

- 2.1 What are the reasons for the emergence of the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha?**  
.....
- 2.2 What are the principles of Gorkha Janmukti Morcha?**  
.....
- 2.3 What are the goals of Gorkha Janmukti Morcha?**  
.....
- 2.4 What is the strategy adopted by Gorkha Janmukti Morcha to fulfil their goals?**  
.....
- 2.5 On what principles, objectives and strategies does Gorkha Janmukti Morcha differ from earlier organisations demanding a separate state of Gorkhaland?**  
.....
- 2.6 What is the reason for the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha's aversion to the idea of Sixth Schedule status to Darjeeling?**  
.....
- 2.7 Does the presence of Kamtapur Movement in the region lead to conflict of interest between Gorkha Janmukti Morcha and Greater Kamta United Forum?**  
(a) Yes      (b) No      (c) Not sure  
If yes kindly given reason to your answer below:  
.....
- 2.8 What policies and programmes have been incorporated by Gorkha Janmukti Morcha for the interest of non-Gorkhas and religious minorities (internal minorities) in Darjeeling and adjoining areas?**  
.....

#### **PART III- GORKHA ETHNIC IDENTITY AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN WEST BENGAL**

- 3.1 Terms like Nepali and Nepalese have been commonly used to refer the community. Lately however emphasis is given to the Gorkha to address the community. Do you find any difference between the terms Gorkha and Nepali?**  
(a) Yes      (b) No      (c) Not sure
- 3.2 How do you like to refer yourself?**  
(a) Gorkha      (b) Nepali      (c) Any other





- b) To overcome the sense of alienation among the Gorkhas of West Bengal
- c) To achieve the development of the region
- d) To achieve political participation of the people.
- e) All of the above
- f) Any other, please state below

.....  
**3.15 Do you think the separate state of Gorkhaland would solve socio-economic and cultural discrimination of Gorkhas residing in states other than West Bengal?**

- (a) Yes                      (b) No                      (c) Not sure

Please state the reason.

.....  
**3.16 Do you view Rajbangsi as the aboriginals of Cooch Behar?**

- (a) Yes                      (b) No                      (c) Not sure

Please state the reason.

.....  
**PART IV- GORKHALAND MOVEMENT AND PROSPECTS OF MULTICULTURALISM IN WEST BENGAL**

**4.1 How do you trace the development of the Gorkhaland Movement in West Bengal?**

- a) Pre independence era with the first demand made by Hill's Men Association in 1907.
- b) To the armed mass movement led by Gorkha National Liberation Front.
- c) To the non violent mass movement led by Gorkha Jan Mukti Morcha.
- d) Not sure

If any other opinion mention below:

.....  
**4.2 Do you see the proposal of Sixth Schedule status for Darjeeling as the cause for the renewed movement for Gorkhaland?**

- (a) Yes                      (b) No                      (c) Not sure

Please state the reason.

.....  
**4.3 How do you account the failure of Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council to meet the aspirations of the Gorkhas in West Bengal?**

- a) Apathetic to the needs of the people
- b) Lack of vision of the leaders,
- c) Disparity between the formulation and execution of the policies and programmes,
- d) Misuse of financial grants and resources
- e) No real decentralisation of power in the Council
- f) Corruption
- g) Lack of unity and infighting within the organisation
- h) All of above

**If any other mention below**

.....  
**4.4 Do you think that the Gorkhas being suffer from cultural discrimination in West Bengal?**

- (a) Yes                      (b) No                      (c) Not sure

**Give reason for your answer**

.....  
**4.5 Do you think that the Gorkhas being minority are underrepresented in political institution of West Bengal?**

- (a) Yes                      (b) No                      (c) Not sure

**Give reason for your answer**

.....  
**4.6 Do you think that the Gorkhas being minority are economically deprived in West Bengal?**

- (a) Yes                      (b) No                      (c) Not sure

**Give reason for your answer**

.....  
**4.7 Do you see Gorkhaland Movement as a reaction to the politico-economic deprivation of the Gorkhas in West Bengal?**

- (a) Yes                      (b) No                      (c) Not sure

Please state the case of deprivations

4.8 How far do you account the dominant community, i.e., Bengalis for the politico-economic deprivation of the Gorkhas in West Bengal?

- (a) Fully (b) to some extent (c) Not at all (d) difficult to say

State the reason for your answer

4.9 Has any attempt been made by the majority community to assimilate the culture of the Gorkhas with the majority community?

- (a) Yes (b) No (c) Not sure

Give reason for your answer

4.10 How do you account the response of the majority community, i.e., Bengalis in West Bengal to the Gorkhas and the Gorkhaland Movement?

- (a) Supportive (b) Antagonistic (c) Passive (d) Not sure

4.11 How do you account the response of the other minorities' communities, i.e., Lepchas, Bhutias, Marwaris and Koch Rajbangsi in Darjeeling and adjoining areas to the Gorkhaland Movement?

- (a) Supportive (b) Antagonistic (c) Passive (d) Not sure

4.12 Do you think self-government rights have been denied to the Gorkhas?

- (a) Yes (b) No (c) Not sure

4.13 If yes why do you think that self-government rights have been denied to the Gorkhas?

- a) The demand for a separate state of Gorkhaland still remains unattended.
- b) GTA has been bereft of important subjects and power
- c) Dependence of GTA on State government for funds
- d) Any other mention below

4.14 Do you think self government rights will encourage segregationist sentiments?

- (a) Yes (b) No (c) Not sure

Give reason for your answer below

4.15 Do you think political and territorial autonomy will protect minority cultures from assimilation and discrimination by the majority community?

- (a) Yes (b) No (c) Not sure

Give reason for your answer below

4.16 What is your opinion on the movement of the Koch Rajbangsi for a separate state of Kamtapur in West Bengal?

- (a) Supportive (b) Antagonistic (c) Passive (d) Not sure

4.17 What is your opinion on the demand of the Greater United Kamta Forum to include Siliguri sub-division and northern part of the Dooars within the jurisdiction of the proposed Kamtapur state?

- a) Siliguri is a part of Darjeeling and so should be within the jurisdiction of the proposed Gorkhaland state.
- b) Siliguri consists of sizeable Rajbangsi population who are denied cultural, economic and political rights and so the region can be incorporated within the jurisdiction of the proposed Kamtapur state.
- c) A mutual agreement could be reached with regard to sharing of the territory.

If any other suggestion or opinion mention below

4.18 Do you view Gorkhaland Movement as a movement for identity or resources?

- (a) Identity (b) Resources (c) Both (d) Any other

Please give reasons for your answer

**PART V- GORKHALAND TERRITORIAL ADMINISTRATION (GTA)**

**5.1 Does setting up of GTA fulfil the goal of GJM?**

- (a) Yes (b) No (c) Not sure

**Give reason for your answer below**

.....

**5.2 Do you see GTA as a step forward to statehood and not a dilution of the demand for Gorkhaland?**

- (a) Yes (b) No (c) Not sure

**Give reason for your answer below**

.....

**5.3 What is the mode of selection of the Chief Executive of the GTA?**

.....

**5.4 Why there any is no provision of reservation in GTA for the women, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, non-tribes, non-Gorkhas, religious minorities etc?**

- a) The population of the Darjeeling is culturally homogeneous.
- b) The GTA has representatives from the internal minorities to represent their interest in socio-politico scenario in Darjeeling.
- c) No demand for a separate provision of reservation in GTA was made by the women, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, non-tribes, non-Gorkhas, and religious minorities in Darjeeling.
- d) All of the above

If any other mention below

.....

**5.5 Mention the development projects that have been undertaken by the GTA to bring about the economic development of Darjeeling?**

.....

**5.6 Do you think that the developmental model outlined in the GTA arrangement is urban-centric?**

- (a) Yes (b) No (c) Not sure

**Give reason for your answer below**

.....

**5.7 What measures have been undertaken by the GJM to incorporate Terai and Duars within the jurisdiction of the GTA?**

.....

**5.8 How is the new settlement of GTA better than the earlier experiments such as DGHC?**

- (a) Unlike the erstwhile arrangement of DGHC GTA would be formed through direct election.
- (b) GTA is having far more numerical strength of the electoral members than the erstwhile DGHC.
- (c) GTA administrative, executive and financial powers compared to the DGHC which had only executive power.
- (d) GTA has control over such important departments like education, touzi as well as control of all unreserved forests in the region and the power to create government jobs in the B, C and D categories.
- (e) All of the above.

**If any other reason kindly mention below**

.....

**PART VI- STATE AND GORKHALAND MOVEMENT**

**6.1 How do you account the response of the Union Government to the Gorkhaland Movement?**

- (a) Supportive (b) Antagonistic (c) Passive

**If any other please specify below**

.....

**6.2 How do you account the response of the West Bengal government to the Gorkhaland Movement?**

- (a) Supportive (b) Antagonistic (c) Passive

**If any other please specify below**

.....

**6.3 Do you think the government has undertaken attempts to promote cultural homogeneity in West Bengal?**

- (a) Yes (b) No (c) Not sure

**6.4 If yes please give reason to your answer.**

.....

**6.4 Do you think the government of West Bengal is dominated by the majority community in West Bengal?**

- (a) Yes (b) No (c) Not sure

**6.5 Do you think that the language and education policies of the West Bengal state favour the dominant culture of West Bengal?**

- (a) Yes (b) No (c) Not sure

**If yes please give reason to your answer.**

.....

**6.6 Do you think that the socio-economic policies and programmes of the West Bengal Government favours and fulfils the larger interest of the dominant majority community?**

- (a) Yes (b) No (c) Not sure

**If yes please give reason to your answer.**

.....

**6.7 Which rights are denied by the government to the Gorkhas as an ethnic minority in West Bengal?**

- a) Lack of constitutional status to the language
- b) Lack of adequate political representation in the governmental machinery
- c) Lack of funds to sustain the cultural institutions like architecture, music, art, literature.
- d) Freedom to pursue their cultural practices in public
- e) All of the above
- f) None of the above

**If any other then mention below**

.....

**6.8 Do you think that the Gorkhas have been denied equal representation or treatment in public sphere like gazetted holidays, naming of public streets, buildings and so on?**

- (a) Yes (b) No (c) Not sure

**If yes then kindly mention the areas where the Gorkhas have been denied equal representation or treatment in public sphere.**

.....

**6.9 Has the West Bengal government undertaken special consideration for the protection and equal treatment to the Gorkhas in West Bengal?**

- (a) Yes (b) No (c) Not sure

**If yes mention the measures undertaken by the West Bengal government for the protection and equal treatment to the Gorkhas in West Bengal.**

.....

**6.10 Has the West Bengal government provided any financial support or other related state resources to the Gorkhas for sustaining their cultural institutions?**

- (a) Yes (b) No (c) Not sure

**6.11 If yes mention the financial programmes and policies undertaken by the state?**

.....

**6.11 Do you view the present Trinamul Congress (TMC) government in West Bengal as favourable to the demand of Gorkhaland?**

- (a) Yes (b) No

**Please give reason to your answer.**

.....

**6.12 Do you find any difference in the approaches of TMC and Left front government with regard to the Gorkhaland Movement?**

- (a) Yes (b) No

**Please give reason to your answer.**

.....

**6.13 Do you view the present Union Government as favourable to the demand of Gorkhaland?**

- (a) Yes (b) No

**Please give reason to your answer.**

.....

**Rating of the Respondents**

- 1) Cooperative
- 2) Non Cooperative
- 3) Moderately responsive
- 4) Reluctant

# **INTERVIEW SCHEDULE**

(For members of Kamtapur Peoples Party/ Greater Cooch Behar Movement)

## **MULTICULTURALISM AND IDENTITY POLITICS: A STUDY OF GORKHALAND AND KAMTAPUR MOVEMENTS IN WEST BENGAL**

*(The information collected is confidential and shall be used for academic purpose only)*

**\*TICK THE CORRECT OPTION**

### **PART I- SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROFILE OF KAMTAPUR PEOPLE PARTY/GREATER KAMTA UNITED FORUM/ KAMTAPUR DEMOCRATIC LIBERATION FRONT MEMBERS**

- 1.1 Name:**.....
- 1.2 Post held in Kamtapur Peoples Party/Greater Kamta United Forum/Kamtapur Democratic Liberation Front:**.....
- 1.3 Address:**.....
- 1.4 Age:** (a) 18-30            (b) 31-45            (c) 46-60            (d) 61 and above
- 1.5 Religion:** (a) Hindu (b) Muslim            (c) Christian            (d) Any Other.....
- 1.6 Caste:** (a) Gen            (b) SC            (c) ST            (d) OBC            (e) MOBC
- 1.7 Educational Qualification:** (a) Illiterate            (b) Primary (c) ME (d) High (e) Matriculate  
(f) Higher Secondary (g) Graduation and above (h) Any other degree.....
- 1.8 Occupation:** .....
- 1.9 Marital Status:** (a) Married (1)            (b) Unmarried (2)            (c) Widow (3)            (d) Divorce (4)
- 1.10 Does your father/husband/any family member belong to any political party?**  
(a) Yes            (b) No

**If yes, name of the party:** (a) Congress            (b) BJP            (c) CPI            (d) GNLF            (e) GJM

### **PART II- GREATER KAMTA UNITED FORUM: PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES**

- 2.1 What are the reasons for the emergence of Greater Kamta United Forum?**  
.....
- 2.2 What are the principles of Greater Kamta United Forum?**  
.....
- 2.3 What according to you are the goals of Greater Kamta United Forum?**  
.....
- 2.4 What is the strategy adopted by Greater Kamta United Forum to fulfil their goals?**  
.....
- 2.5 On what principles, objectives and strategies does Greater Kamta United Forum differ from earlier organisations demanding a separate state of Kamtapur?**  
.....
- 2.6 What led to the split of Kamtapur People's Party into two factions: Kamtapur People's Party and Greater Cooch Behar Movement?**  
.....
- 2.7 Does the presence of Gorkhaland Movement in the region lead to conflict of interest between GJM and Greater Kamta United Forum?**  
(a) Yes            (b) No            (c) Not sure
- If yes kindly give reason to your answer below:**  
.....
- 2.8 What policies and programmes have been incorporated by Greater Kamta United Forum for the interest of non-Rajbangsi and religious minorities (internal minorities) in Coochbehar and adjoining areas?**  
.....

**PART III- KOCH RAJBANGSI ETHNIC IDENTITY AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN WEST BENGAL**

**3.1 Are the Koch and Rajbangsi the same race or constitutes two different ethnic stocks?**

- (a) Yes (b) No (c) Not sure

**Give reason for your answer below:**

**3.2 How do you account the contribution of various movements like Kshatriya and Uttarakhand to the emergence of a distinct Rajbangsi identity in West Bengal?**

- a) The contribution was significant in shaping the Rajbangsi identity as distinct from the Bengalis in West Bengal.  
b) No contribution as each movement represented the interest only of elite and educated class of the Rajbangsi of that period of time.  
c) The movements had a detrimental impact on the identity of Rajbangsi as they represented the distorted history of Rajbangsi in West Bengal.

**If any other view kindly mention below:**

**3.3 On what grounds does Rajbangsi claim to be a separate ethnic community from Bengalis?**

- a) Cooch Behar has a distinct history from the Bengal.  
b) The culture and practices of the Rajbangsi are distinct from the Bengalis of Bengal.  
c) The language of the Rajbangsi is distinct from the Bengalis of West Bengal.  
d) All of the above

**If any other mention below:**

**3.4 Is the Kamtapuri language distinct from other languages viz. the Bengali and Assamese?**

- (a) Yes (b) No (c) Not sure

**Kindly justify your answer below:**

**3.5 Do you think that the Rajbangsi as a distinct community is not valued by the majority community in the West Bengal?**

- (a) Yes (b) No (c) Not sure

**If yes give reason for your answer:**

**3.6 Is Kamtapur Movement an attempt to establish a distinct identity for the Rajbangsi from the Bengalis of West Bengal?**

- (a) Yes (b) No (c) Not sure

**3.9 Do you view cross border migration from Bangladesh as a threat to the identity of the Rajbangsi in West Bengal?**

- (a) Yes (b) No (c) Not sure

**If yes why do you think the cross border migration is a threat to the ethnic identity of the Rajbangsi in West Bengal?**

- a) Increased competition of scarce economic resources like land, government jobs and the like. (1)  
b) Problem of Mistaken Identity with regard to citizens of Bangladesh. (2)  
c) The land of the son of soil (Rajbangsi) would be swayed by the population from Bangladesh turning the Rajbangsi into minorities in their own land.  
d) All of the above.

**If any other reason mention below**

**3.7 Do you think incorporation of the Kamtapuri language in the Eighth Schedule could provide solution to the socio-cultural discrimination of the Rajbangsi in West Bengal?**

- (a) Yes (b) No (c) Not sure

**3.8 Do you support the recent demand of the Rajbangsi for ST status?**

- (a) Yes (b) No (c) Not sure

**Please give reason for your answer below:**

**3.9 What do you think is the root cause of the feelings of alienation of the Rajbangsi as a minority community in West Bengal?**

- a) Poor economic development of the Coochbehar and the adjoining areas.
- b) Secondary social treatment meted out by the dominant community in West Bengal.
- c) Lack of adequate political representation in public institutions.
- d) Government apathy towards the overall cause of the Rajbangsi in West Bengal.
- e) Confused identity owing to the cross border migration of Bengali citizens from Bangladesh.
- f) All of the above

If any other kindly mention below:

.....  
**3.10 Do you think the separate state of Kamtapur would solve socio-economic and cultural discrimination of Rajbangsi residing in states other than West Bengal?**

- (a) Yes (b) No (c) Not sure

**Please state the reason.**

.....  
**3.11 Do you view Gorkhas as the aboriginals of Darjeeling or as migrants from Nepal?**

- (a) Yes (b) No (c) Not sure

**Please state the reason.**

.....  
**PART IV- KAMTAPUR MOVEMENT AND PROSPECTS OF MULTICULTURALISM IN WEST BENGAL**

**4.1 How do you trace the development of the Kamtapur Movement in West Bengal?**

- a) To the pre independence era with the first demand made by Hitasadhani Sabha for a separate of Cooch Behar.
- b) To the mass movement led by Kamtapur Peoples Party.
- c) To the armed movement led by Kamtapur Liberation Organisation.
- d) Not sure

**If any other opinion mention below:**

.....  
**4.2 Why do the Rajbangsi prefer the name 'Kamtapur' for their proposed independent state?**

.....  
**4.3 What according to you is the aim of the Kamtapur Movement?**

- a) To create distinct identity of the Rajbangsi in India in general and West Bengal in particular.
- b) To overcome the sense of alienation among the Rajbangsi of West Bengal
- c) To achieve the development of the region
- d) To achieve political participation of the people.
- e) All of the above
- f) Any other, please state below

.....  
**4.4 Do you think that the Rajbangsi being suffer from cultural discrimination in West Bengal?**

- (a) Yes (b) No (c) Not sure

**Give reason for your answer**

.....  
**4.3 Do you think that the Rajbangsi being minority are underrepresented in political institution of West Bengal?**

- (a) Yes (b) No (c) Not sure

**Give reason for your answer**

.....  
**4.4 Do you think that the Rajbangsi being minority are economically deprived in West Bengal?**

- (a) Yes (b) No (c) Not sure

**Give reason for your answer**

.....



**4.4 Do you see Kamtapur Movement as a reaction to the socio-economic political deprivation of the sons of the soil?**

- (a) Yes (b) No (c) Not sure

**Please state the case of deprivations**

**4.5 How far do you account the dominant community, i.e., Bengalis for the politico-economic deprivation of the Rajbangsi in West Bengal?**

- (a) Fully (b) to some extent (c) Not at all (d) Not sure

**State the reason for your answer below**

**4.6 Has any attempt been made by the majority community to assimilate the culture of the Rajbangsi with the majority community?**

- (a) Yes (b) No (c) Not sure

**Give justification for your answer**

**4.7 How do you account the response of the majority community, i.e., Bengalis in West Bengal to the Rajbangsi and the Kamtapur Movement?**

- (a) Supportive (b) Antagonistic (c) Passive (d) Not sure

**4.8 How do you account the response of the other minorities' communities, i.e., Nepalis, Marwaris and Biharis in Dooars and adjoining areas to the Kamtapur Movement?**

- (a) Supportive (b) Antagonistic (c) Passive (d) Not sure

**4.9 Do you think self-government rights have been denied to the Rajbangsi in West Bengal?**

- (a) Yes (b) No (c) Not sure

**If yes why do you think that self-government rights have been denied to the Koch Rajbangsi by the West Bengal government?**

- a) Lack of organised mass movement by the Rajbangsi.
- b) The Government refusal to accept Rajbangsi as distinct ethnic group separate from the Bengalis in West Bengal
- c) Lack of representatives in political institutions to put forward the cause of Rajbangsi.
- d) Lack of political awareness among the Rajbangsi masses.
- e) All of the above

If any other reason mention below:

**4.10 Do you think self government rights will encourage segregationist sentiments?**

- (a) Yes (b) No (c) Not sure

**Give reason for your answer below**

**4.11 Do you think political and territorial autonomy will protect minority cultures from assimilation and discrimination by the majority community?**

- (a) Yes (b) No (c) Not sure

**Give reason for your answer below**

**4.12 What is your opinion regarding the movement of the Gorkhas for a separate state of Gorkhaland in West Bengal?**

- (a) Supportive (b) Antagonistic (c) Passive (d) Not sure

**4.13 What is your opinion on the demand of the Greater United Kamta Forum to include Siliguri sub-division and northern part of the Dooars within the jurisdiction of the proposed Kamtapur state? Why?**

- a) Siliguri is a part of Darjeeling and so should be within the jurisdiction of the proposed Gorkhaland state.
- b) Siliguri consists of sizeable Rajbangsi population who are denied cultural, economic and political rights and so the region can be incorporated within the jurisdiction of the proposed Kamtapur state.
- c) A mutual agreement could be reached with regard to sharing of the territory.

**If any other suggestion or opinion mention below**

**4.14 Do you view Kamtapur Movement as a movement for identity or resources?**

- (a) Identity (b) Resources (c) Both (d) Any other

**Please give reasons for your answer**

.....

**PART V- STATE AND KAMTAPUR MOVEMENT**

**5.1 How do you account the response of the Union Government to the Kamtapur Movement?**

- (a) Supportive (b) Antagonistic (c) Passive

**If any other please specify below**

.....

**5.2 How do you account the response of the West Bengal government to the Kamtapur Movement?**

- (a) Supportive (b) Antagonistic (c) Passive

**If any other please specify below**

.....

**5.3 Do you think the government has undertaken attempts or measures to promote cultural homogeneity in West Bengal?**

- (a) Yes (b) No (c) Not sure

**If yes please give reason to your answer.**

.....

**5.4 Do you think the government of West Bengal is dominated by the majority community in West Bengal?**

- (a) Yes (b) No (c) Not sure

**5.5 Do you think that the language and education policies of the West Bengal state favour the dominant culture of West Bengal?**

- (a) Yes (b) No (c) Not sure

**If yes please give reason to your answer.**

.....

**5.6 Do you think that the socio-economic policies and programmes of the West Bengal Government favour and fulfil the larger interest of the dominant majority community?**

- (a) Yes (b) No (c) Not sure

**If yes please give reason to your answer.**

.....

**5.7 What rights are denied by the government to the Rajbangsi as an ethnic minority in West Bengal?**

- a) Lack of constitutional status to the language
- b) Lack of adequate political representation in the governmental machinery
- c) Lack of funds to sustain the cultural institutions like architecture, music, art, literature.
- d) Freedom to pursue their cultural practices in public
- e) All of the above
- f) None of the above

**If any other then mention below**

.....

**5.8 Why do you think that the state of West Bengal has not granted official recognition to the language of the Rajbangsi?**

- a) The West Bengal government considers the language of the Rajbangsi as the dialect of the Bengali which constitutes the dominant culture in West Bengal.
- b) The West Bengal government fears that the granting of official recognition to the language of the Rajbangsi would further strengthen the separatist movement of the Rajbangsi.
- c) Lack of an organised language movement by the Rajbangsi in West Bengal.
- d) All of above

**If any other reason kindly mention below:**

.....

**5.9 Do you think that the Rajbangsi have been denied equal representation or treatment in public sphere like gazetted holidays, naming of public streets, buildings and so on?**

(a) Yes (b) No (c) Not sure

**If yes then kindly mention the areas where the Rajbangsi have been denied equal representation or treatment in public sphere.**

.....

**5.10 Has the West Bengal government undertaken special consideration for the protection and equal treatment to the Rajbangsi in West Bengal?**

(a) Yes (b) No (c) Not sure

**If yes mention the measures undertaken by the West Bengal government for the protection and equal treatment to the Rajbangsi in West Bengal.**

.....

**5.11 Has the West Bengal government provided any financial support or other related state resources to the Rajbangsi for sustaining their cultural institutions?**

(a) Yes (b) No (c) Not sure

**5.12 Do you view the present Trinamul Congress (TMC) government in West Bengal as favourable to the demand of Gorkhaland?**

(a) Yes (b) No

**Please give reason to your answer.**

.....

**5.13 Do you find any difference in the approaches of TMC and Left front government with regard to the Gorkhaland Movement?**

(a) Yes (b) No

**Please give reason to your answer.**

.....

**5.14 Do you view the present Union Government as favourable to the demand of Gorkhaland?**

(a) Yes (b) No

**Please give reason to your answer.**

.....

**Rating of the Respondents**

- 1) Cooperative
- 2) Non Cooperative
- 3) Moderately responsive
- 4) Reluctant