



Standing Committee Report Summary

The Sixth Schedule to the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2007 and the Constitution (One Hundred and Seventh Amendment) Bill, 2007

- The Standing Committee on Home Affairs submitted its 129th Report on ‘The Sixth Schedule to the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2007 and the Constitution (One Hundred and Seventh Amendment) Bill, 2007’ on February 28, 2008. The Chairperson was Smt Sushma Swaraj.
- The Bills seek to create an autonomous self governing Council called the Gorkha Hill Council, Darjeeling (GHC) under the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution. The GHC shall have legislative, administrative and financial powers in respect of specified subjects.
- The Committee noted that two divergent views were presented about the Bill. The majority of the views were opposed to the Bill on various grounds and were in favour of Gorkhaland (a separate state). The official viewpoint

stated that there would be agitation and chaos if the Bill was not passed.

- The Committee could not verify the claims of the central and state governments since it could not visit the area and feel “the pulse of the people.” Therefore, relying on the official claims, the Committee recommended that both Bills be passed after certain amendments were made. It suggested that (a) 33% of the seats in the GHC should be reserved for women; and (b) an appropriate number of seats should be reserved for Scheduled Castes in the GHC.

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