

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PLANNING
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 02.12.2010
ANSWERED ON
SPECIAL CATEGORY STATUS TO STATES .

2559

Shri Shantaram Naik

Will the Minister of COAL PLANNING be pleased to state :-

- (a) the names of the States which are categorized as special category States;
- (b) since when each of the States have been so categorized;
- (c) the type of financial and other benefits that each of the special category States gets at present;
- (d) the names of the States which have requested Government for categorizing them as special categories;
- (e) whether special category States are categorized under any constitutional provision, ordinary legislations or by executive order; and
- (f) the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, PERSONNEL,
PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSION

(SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

(a) & (b) There are 11 States at present which have been granted Special Category Status viz., Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and Uttarakhand. The issue of Special Category Status (SCS) first came up when the Gadgil Formula of fund allocation was originally approved by the National Development Council at its meeting held in April, 1969. Assam, Jammu & Kashmir and Nagaland were included for providing Central Assistance in the form of 90% grant and 10% loan. The various States were accorded Special Category Status whenever they attained Statehood viz., Himachal Pradesh in 1970-71, Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura in 1971-72; Sikkim in 1975-76 and Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram in 1986-87 and Uttarakhand in 2001-02.

(c): The category into which a State falls (that is, special category or non-special category) is used for deciding the loan-grant ratio that is applicable for the Normal Central Assistance (NCA) provided to the States. Special Category Status results in the Normal Central Assistance and Assistance for Externally Aided Projects (EAP) being calculated as 90% grant and 10% loan. Non-Special Category Status results in the Normal Central Assistance being calculated as 30% grant and 70% loan. Special Category States are also provided Special Plan Assistance for projects of special importance to the State. Special Central Assistance untied to projects has also been provided to Special Category States because of their difficult financial situation.

(d): There have been requests for Special Category Status from the States of Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Bihar.

(e) & (f): The decision to grant Special Category Status to any State is taken by National Development Council, which is the sole body competent to do so. There are no separate constitutional provisions, legislation or executive orders for the same.