

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PLANNING  
RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2949  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.12.2016**

**DISCONTINUATION OF SPECIAL CATEGORY STATUS**

2949. SHRI K.G. KENYE:

Will the **Minister of PLANNING** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has proposed to discontinue the support as special category status to entire North Eastern States;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and the decision of NITI Aayog thereon;
- (c) the details of Centrally sponsored schemes under 90:10 funding ratio proposed for those States, during the last five years; and
- (d) the present status of those schemes?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR MINISTRY OF PLANNING  
AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND  
MINISTRY OF HOUSING & URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION  
(RAOINDERJIT SINGH)

(a) & (b) Special Category Status for plan assistance has been granted in the past by the National Development Council (NDC) to some States that are characterized by a number of features necessitating special consideration. There is no proposal to discontinue the special category status of North Eastern States and the Himalayan States. The Fourteenth Finance Commission in its recommendations has not made any distinction between special and general category states in determining the norms and recommendations. In the assessment of State resources, it has taken into account the disabilities arising from constraints unique to each State to arrive at the expenditure requirements. As per the recommendations of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, block grants of Normal Central Assistance (NCA), Special Plan Assistance (SPA) and Special Central Assistance (untied) (SCA) have been discontinued from Budget 2015-16 and the recommendation to increase the States' share in the net proceeds of the Union tax revenues from 32% earlier to 42% for the period 2015-20 have been accepted by the Union Government. This would provide more untied resources to the States. The objective has been to fill the resource gap of each State to the extent possible through tax devolution.

(c) & (d) The Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs) were restructured to 66 in 2013. These have been rationalized into 28 umbrella schemes as per the Report of the Sub-Group of Chief Ministers on Rationalization of Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

The funding pattern of the schemes is based on the recommendations of the Sub-Group of Chief Ministers on Rationalization of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (October 2015). Some schemes were merged with others while States have been given the option to continue any earlier schemes left out in the restructuring, in a sharing pattern of 50:50 between the Centre and states. This change in funding pattern is being implemented from the fiscal year 2016-17.

Of the 28 umbrella schemes, 6 schemes have been categorized as Core of the Core schemes, 20 schemes as Core schemes, and remaining two as Optional schemes. The existing funding pattern will continue for Core of the Core schemes. These include: Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA), National Social Assistance Programme (old age pension etc), umbrella programmes for the development of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Minorities, Development of Backward Classes, Differently abled and other vulnerable groups..

The funding pattern for Core Schemes, for the eight North-Eastern states and the three Himalayan states is in the ratio of Centre: State of 90:10 whereas, for the rest of the States, this ratio shall be 60:40 between the Centre and states. These include the following broad category of schemes (part of the national development agenda): Krishi Unnati Yojana, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, Rashtriya Pashudhan Vikas Yojana, Swachh Bharat Mission, National Rural Drinking Water Programme, National Health Mission, National Education Mission, Integrated Child Development Service, Mid-Day Meal Programme, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) and Smart Cities, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Environment, Forestry and Wild Life, Police Modernisation and Infrastructure for Judiciary.

The funding pattern for Optional Schemes for the eight North Eastern states and the three Himalayan states is in the ratio of Centre: State of 80:20 while it is 50:50 for the rest of the States.

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