

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PLANNING

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3025
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.03.2023

SPECIAL CATEGORY STATUS TO GOA

3025 SHRI LUIZINHO JOAQUIM FALEIRO:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the provision of Special Category Status (SCS) was introduced in 1969 by the Fifth Finance Commission; and
- (b) whether Government is aware that the Goa Legislative Assembly has passed unanimously resolutions in 2008 and 2013 demanding that the Central Government grants Special Category Status to Goa, if so, the action taken by Government to fulfill this long standing aspirations of Goa?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION; MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS

(RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a) & (b) Special Category Status for plan assistance was granted in the past by the National Development Council (NDC) to some States that were characterized by a number of features necessitating special consideration. These features included (i) hilly and difficult terrain (ii) low population density and / or sizeable share of tribal population (iii) strategic location along borders with neighbouring countries (iv) economic and infrastructural backwardness and (v) non-viable nature of state finances. The decision was based on an integrated consideration of all the factors listed above and the peculiar situation of the state. However, the Fourteenth Finance Commission (FFC) has not made any distinction between General Category States and Special Category States

in the horizontal distribution of shareable taxes amongst the States. Fourteenth Finance Commission (FFC) recommendations while considering the various criteria for devolution has taken into account the total requirements of the States under Plan and non-Plan. As per the recommendations of the Fourteenth Finance Commission (FFC), the Union Government increased the share of net shareable taxes to the States from 32% earlier to 42% for the period 2015-20. This has provided more untied resources to the States. The same has also been retained by the 15th Finance Commission at 41% (1% adjusted on account of creation of UT of J&K) for the period (2020-21 & 2021-26). The objective has been to fill the resource gap of each State to the extent possible through tax devolution. Also, post-devolution revenue deficit grants have been provided to States where devolution alone could not cover the assessed gap. Thus, following the recommendations of 14th Finance Commission, the class of Special Category States ceases to exist. Accordingly, there is no proposal under consideration for grant of Special Category Status to any State.
