

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 106**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2018/AGRAHAYANA 20, 1940 (SAKA)**

**SPECIAL CATEGORY STATUS**

**106. SHRI M. MURALI MOHAN:**

**Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) the number of States in the country granted Special Category Status (SCS);**
- (b) the criterion for grant of SCS and the reason for not granting SCS to the State of Andhra Pradesh;**
- (c) whether the Government is contemplating to bring amendments in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 on this issue; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS  
(SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR)**

**(a) to (d) : As per the information provided by the NITI Aayog, 11 states namely, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and Uttarakhand were granted special category status. Special Category Status for plan assistance was granted in the past by the National Development Council to the States that are 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. Special Category Status was granted based on an integrated consideration of these criteria.**

**Following the recommendations of 14th Finance Commission, the Special Category States cease to exist and thus, no special category status has been granted to any State. However, the Central Government has agreed to give a special assistance to the State of Andhra Pradesh to make up for the additional Central share the State might have received during 2015-16 to 2019-20, if the funding of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) would have been shared at the ratio of 90:10 between the Centre and the State. The special assistance is to be provided by way of repayment of loan and interest for the Externally Aided Projects (EAPs) signed and disbursed during 2015-2016 to 2019-20 by the State.**

\*\*\*\*\*