

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. †193

TO BE ANSWERED ON MONDAY, JULY 22, 2024/ASHADHA 31, 1946 (SAKA)

SPECIAL STATUS TO BIHAR

†193. SHRI RAMPRIT MANDAL

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to provide special status to Bihar State and other most backward States to promote economic growth and industrialization; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE
(SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY)

(a) and (b): The 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 neighboring countries, (iv) economic and infrastructural backwardness and (v) non-viable nature of State finances. The decision was taken based on an integrated consideration of all the factors listed above and the peculiar situation of the State. Earlier, the request of Bihar for Special Category Status was considered by an Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) which submitted its Report on 30th March, 2012. The IMG came to the finding that based on existing NDC criteria, the case for Special Category Status for Bihar is not made out.
