

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2691
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2001
SPECIAL CATEGORY STATUS
ALE NARENDRA;KUMUDINI PATNAIK

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) the criteria laid down for giving special category status to the States;
- (b) names of the States which have been given the special category status;
- (c) whether Government propose to give special category status to Uttaranchal and Orissa;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the time by which final decision is likely to be taken in this regards;
- (f) whether Government are resolved to solve the problems of States; and
- (g) if so, the time by which the plan is likely to be given final shape?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INVESTMENT, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF PLANNING, STATISTICS & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE)

- (a): The Special Category Status is given to those States which are predominantly of hilly terrain with large tribal population, located on border areas with under-developed socio-economic infrastructure and overall economic backwardness.
- (b): The States which have been given the Special Category Status are Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.
- (c) to (e): Since Uttaranchal fulfills most of the characteristics of Special Category States, the issue of conferring Special Category status to Uttaranchal is under consideration and will be soon placed before the National Development Council (NDC) for final decision.
- (f) and (g): Government are making continuous efforts in this direction as a part of the planning process.