

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4034
ANSWERED ON:09.04.2003
ORISSA A SPECIAL CATEGORY STATE STATUS TO ORISSA
ANANTA NAYAK;AVSM, BRIG.(RETD.) KAMAKHYA PRASAD SINGH DEO

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Orissa has forwarded a proposal to declare Orissa as a Special Category State :
- (b) If so, the details in this regard; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS & PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI MOOKHERJEE)

(a) & (b) : The Hon`ble Chief Minister of Orissa in his Address at the 50th Meeting of the NDC with a written copy circulated, inter-alia stated `I have been repeatedly requesting the Government of India for declaring Orissa as a Special Category State`.

(c) : Special Category Status has been accorded to some states on the basis of a set of criteria which include – strategic location on the border with neighbouring countries, hilly terrain, inadequate economic and social infrastructure, predominantly large tribal population and limited & weak resource base compared to the development needs. Since Orissa does not have all these features, it has not been feasible to include it under Special Category States. Further, while states have been suggesting modification(s) in the criteria for allocating Central Assistance, there is no consensus among the states on the issue. In the absence of a consensus, it is the considered view of the Government that Financial Assistance/Additional Central Assistance (ACA) on a case-to-case basis may be provided keeping in view state`s specific problems.