

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2959
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2004
SPECIAL CATEGORY STATE
Darbar Shri Chhatar Singh;Panda Shri Brahmananda

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) the criteria laid down for according special status to a State;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to accord special Status to Madhya Pradesh as has been done in the case of Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh and Orissa,
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reason therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN)

- (a): `Special category status` has been accorded to some States on the basis of a set of criteria which include: having a strategic location on the border with neighbouring countries, hilly terrain, inadequate economic and social infrastructure, predominantly large tribal population and limited & weak resource-base as compared to development needs.
- (b): No sir. Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh have been accorded special category status because they satisfy all the criteria indicated at (a) above. Orissa State has not been accorded `special category status`.
- (c): Does not arise.
- (d): Madhya Pradesh does not satisfy all the criteria indicated in (a) above.