

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5167

ANSWERED ON:27.04.2010

SPECIAL STATUS CATEGORY TO STATES

Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre;Jeyadural Shri S. R.;Meinya Dr. Thokchom

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to grant special status to some States and Bundelkhand region;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has received proposals from States for grant of special status by amending Article 371 of the Constitution;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including Karnataka; and
- (e) the reaction of the Government in this regard alongwith time by which such proposals are likely to be approved?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN)

(a) to (e): A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION 5167 FOR 27-04-2010 REGARDING "SPECIAL STATUS CATEGORY TO STATES".

(a) & (b): As per information received from the Planning Commission, the decision to accord special category status to any particular State is to be taken based on an integrated consideration of all the factors by the National Development Council (NDC) which is the sole body competent to do so. A State's claim for Special Status has to be examined in the context of criteria/features such as hilly and difficult terrain, low population density and/or sizable share of tribal population, strategic location along borders with neighboring countries, economic and infrastructural backwardness and non-viable nature of State finances. The considered view of the Planning Commission has been that for any State seeking Special Status on account of the State's specific problems, it would be more appropriate to provide financial assistance/Additional Central Assistance as has been the practice so far, on a case to case basis. The Government has approved a Special Bundelkhand Drought Mitigation package of Rs. 7266 Crore comprising Rs. 3506 crore for Uttar Pradesh and Rs. 3760 Crore for Madhya Pradesh to be implemented over a period of three years.

(c) to (e): A proposal was received from Government of Karnataka to amend Article 371 of the Constitution of India to provide for region-wise reservation in employment and admission to educational institutions in Karnataka on the lines of provisions in Article 371 D of the constitution of India with respect to Andhra Pradesh. It was communicated to the Government of Karnataka that the proposal was not found feasible. Government of Karnataka has urged the Union Government to review its stand in the matter. As of now, no decision has been taken in this respect. Since the matter involves issues which are of constitutional nature, no definite timeframe can be specified in this regard.