

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2309
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2010
SPECIAL STATUS TO CHHATTISGARH
Pandey Saroj

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government received resolution from the Legislative Assembly of the State of Chhattisgarh demanding for it a status of special State alongwith a special package for its development;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to accord the status of special State and provide a special package for its development; and
- (c) if not, the reasons for denying the special status and packages as demanded by the State?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSION (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

(a): The request for grant of Special Category Status to Chhattisgarh was made by Government of Chhattisgarh in June 2006 based on a resolution passed by the Legislative Assembly of Chhattisgarh on 24th February 2006.

(b) & (c): Special Category Status for allocation of Central Assistance to State Plans has generally been accorded in the past to States on the basis of a set of criteria that inter alia include hilly and difficult terrain, low population density and/ or sizeable share of tribal population, strategic location along borders with neighbouring countries, economic and infrastructural backwardness and non-viable nature of state finances. States under this category have a low resource base and are not in a position to mobilize resources for their development needs. The decision to grant Special Category Status to any State is taken by the National Development Council (NDC), which is the sole body, competent to do so.

Planning Commission has conveyed to the Government of Chhattisgarh in January, 2007 that the State does not qualify to be a Special Category State under the existing criteria.