

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2226

ANSWERED ON:09.03.2011

SPECIAL CATEGORY STATUS STATES

Azad Shri Kirti (Jha);Hazari Shri Maheshwar ;Hegde Shri Anant Kumar;Hussain Shri Syed Shahnawaz;Lal Shri Kirodi ;Mirdha Dr. Jyoti;Sharma Shri Jagdish

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of States which have been granted Special Category Status during the last three years;
- (b) the conditions/norms on the basis of which the said status has been granted;
- (c) whether the demand for grant of special status to Bihar and Rajasthan is still pending for decision; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which the Government proposes to consider and grant special status to Bihar and Rajasthan?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES(DR. ASHWANI KUMAR)

- (a): During the last three years, no state has been granted Special Category Status.
 - (b): The Special Category State(SCS) status for allocation of Central Assistance to State Plan has generally been accorded in the past to States that have been characterized by a number of features necessitating special consideration. These features include: (i) hilly and difficult terrain, (ii) low population density and/or sizeable share of tribal population, (iii) strategic location along borders with neighbouring countries, (iv) economic and infrastructural backwardness, and (v) non-viable nature of state finances. The decision to grant Special Category Status to any state is taken by the National Development Council, which is the sole body competent to do so.
 - (c) & (d): The State Government of Rajasthan had made a request for grant of Special Status to Rajasthan. The considered view of the Planning Commission is that for any State seeking special category status on account of State specific problems, it would be more appropriate to provide Financial Assistance/Additional Central Assistance(ACA) etc.as has been the practice so far, on a case to case basis, rather than changing the status. The decision has been communicated to the Government of Rajasthan in March, 2010.
- The request from the Government of Bihar demanding Special Category Status to Bihar is under consideration of the Planning Commission.