

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:38
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2011
SPECIAL STATUS TO STATES
Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has set any parameters for according special status to the States in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of States to which such status has been granted by the Government so far alongwith the details thereof;
- (d) the State-wise details of the proposals for accordance of such status to States under consideration of the Government; and
- (e) the details of the steps taken thereon by the Government so far?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 38 BY SHRI ARJUN MEGHWAL FOR ANSWER ON 23.11.2011 REGARDING 'SPECIAL STATUS TO STATES'

(a) & (b): The status of Special Category State has been granted in the past by the National Development Council (NDC) to some States that are 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. States under this category have a low resource base and are not in a position to mobilize resources for their developmental needs even though the per capita income of some of these states is relatively high. Moreover, a number of these states were constituted out of former small Union Territories or districts of some other states, necessarily involving creation of overheads and administrative infrastructure that was out of proportion to their resource base.

(c): At present there are 11 Special Category States namely, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and Uttarakhand. The issue of Special Category Status (SCS) first came up when the Gadgil Formula was originally approved by National Development Council in its meeting held in April, 1969 when Assam, Jammu & Kashmir and Nagaland were provided special consideration. The various other States were accorded Special Category Status whenever they attained Statehood viz; Himachal Pradesh in 1970-71, Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura in 1971-72, Sikkim in 1975-76, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram in 1986-87 and Uttarakhand in 2001-02.

(d) & (e): Requests for Special Category Status have been received earlier from the State Governments of Orissa, Rajasthan, Goa and Bihar. It has not been found feasible to accede to these requests in case of Orissa, Goa & Rajasthan. A delegation from Bihar has presented a Memorandum to the Prime Minister in July 2011 with a request for Special Category Status to Bihar. An Inter-Ministerial Group has been constituted on September 8, 2011 to consider and examine the Memorandum.