

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:667

ANSWERED ON:27.02.2013

SPECIAL CATEGORY STATUS FOR STATES

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Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of States, including Bihar have sought Special Category Status;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with this current status of such requests;
- (c) the details of norms applicable in this regard;
- (d) whether there is a proposal to review the norms for providing special status to States;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the time by which a final decision will be taken by the Planning Commission in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS & PLANNING (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA)

(a) & (b) Recently the State Governments of Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and Rajasthan have sought Special Category Status. In the case of Jharkhand, it has been communicated to the Government of Jharkhand in January 2013 that based on an integrated consideration of existing criteria, Jharkhand does not qualify for the grant of Special Category Status. The requests of other States for Special Category Status are under examination in the Planning Commission.

(c) Special Category Status 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.

(d) to (f) At present there is no proposal to review the norms relating to Special Category Status to States.