

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4093
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2015
NEW CRITERIA FOR ACCORDING SPECIAL STATUS
Nayak Shri B.V.

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to formulate new guidelines/criteria for according special category status to State;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the same is likely to be finalized?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE
(RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

- (a) to (c) : Special Category Status for plan assistance 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.

At present there is no proposal to consider revision in the criteria to accord special category status to States.