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**Title: Need to clear the proposals of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka Governments for declaring certain districts as `special status districts` – Laid.**

**SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (GULBARGA) :** The Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka State Governments have urged the Union Government that four Hyderabad-Karnataka districts of Gulbarga, Bidar, Raichur and Koppal should be declared "Special Status Districts" under Article 371 of the Constitution.

The Union Home Minister had agreed to the demand made by the State Governments. The State Governments had written to the Centre in September 2001 itself over which the Centre had sought and obtained some clarifications. The State Governments had stated that the special status tag would help the local people in getting employment and admissions to educational institutions. The status meant that the locals need not compete with others at the State level for employment opportunities and admissions.

Sir, as the matter is still pending, I urge the Union Government to kindly consider the demand favourably and issue necessary instructions including any legislation, if needed, to declare the above districts as "special status" under Article 371 of the Constitution.