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Title: Need to grant special category status to Andhra Pradesh.

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SHRI KESINENI SRINIVAS (VIJAYAWADA): Union Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley while accepting the fact of promise made regarding granting Special Category Status to residuary state of Andhra Pradesh, quoted the negative recommendation made by the 14th Finance Commission and at the same time the possibility of exploring alternatives of giving more than what Andhra Pradesh would have got under the status but this promise of alternate measure has been not made explicit. UPA Government should have included the Special Category Status in the Act itself. Present Government is not keen on amending the State Reorganization Act to accord Special Status to Andhra Pradesh. The Centre cannot deny this on the pretext of the Finance Commission recommendation as the assurance was made much before in Parliament during the debate on State Bifurcation as per the Article 3 and 4 of the Constitution.