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Title: Need to give legal status of the special assistance package promised to Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI KESINENI SRINIVAS (VIJAYAWADA): Madam Speaker, I would like to raise an issue that is in the hearts and minds of every person of Andhra Pradesh, that is providing legal sanctity for the Special Assistance Package which the hon. Finance Minister had announced on 7th September, 2016. ...(*Interruptions*) The Special Category Status had been promised by the then Prime Minister on the floor of Rajya Sabha on the demand of the Opposition leaders at that time and it was also put in the Andhra Pradesh Re-Organisation Act, 2014. ...(*Interruptions*) But after the scrapping of the Planning Commission and coming into place of the *Niti Ayog*, the Government is now telling that no State will get the Special Category Status. ...(*Interruptions*) After a lot of deliberations and a big exercise, the hon. Finance Minister had announced a Special Assistance Package for Andhra Pradesh. ...(*Interruptions*) But I would like to point out that it has been 2 ½ months since the announcement made by the Finance Minister. ...(*Interruptions*) No further information has been forthcoming since then. ...(*Interruptions*)

Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the Finance Minister, through you, as to the legal status of the Special Assistance Package promised to Andhra Pradesh. ...(*Interruptions*) The Central Government must assure the people of Andhra Pradesh that their commitment will remain legally valid throughout the entire period of the package. ...(*Interruptions*)