

Title: Need to declare Rajasthan as a special category state and provide funds for its development. – Laid.

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH (JHALAWAR): Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and North Eastern States have been placed under special category States. These States are, therefore, entitled to more liberal norms for the purpose of Central Loan Assistance (CLA) under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme and several other programmes in comparison to other States. According to the norms, hilly region, backwardness or States prone to terrorists are treated as special category States.

Conditions in Rajasthan are far worse than the special category States. Two third of the area of the State is part of the Thar desert which may be declared as drought prone areas. Besides, the tribal area forms a major part of the State. Due to Common International Border, which is 1000 km in length, the threat of war is always there. Furthermore, the State is experiencing some kind of natural calamity or the other every year.

In order to give impetus to the development of the State, I demand that the State of Rajasthan be given the status of special category State similar to Jammu

and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and North Eastern States.