

an>

Title: Regarding giving special status to Hyderabad-Karnataka Region.

SHRI N. DHARAM SINGH (BIDAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, on 25th February, the hon. Minister for Home Affairs gave a reply to a query raised by an hon. Member of the Upper House with regard to removal of regional imbalance. It is reported to have evoked very sharp reaction in the Hyderabad-Karnataka region. This matter is widely reported both, in print and electronic media.

This request is based on historical facts. The State Government itself has, in its documented development graph, placed Gulbarga at the bottom. In order to overcome these imbalances and to promote accelerated development of these backward areas, the Government on 3.10.2000 appointed a high-powered Committee under the Chairmanship of the reputed economist and professor, Dr. Nanjudappa for making recommendations. On a comparative study, this Committee has made recommendations for providing additional special budgetary allocation for the purpose. Both the Houses of the Legislature have more than once passed a unanimous Resolution supporting the cause. Even the State Government has furnished clarifications on 27/4/2002 in a reply to the query of the Ministry of Home Affairs sought on 3/12/2001. All relevant statistics regarding literacy, educational institutions, *per capita* income, etc. have been made available.

I very specifically state that the request is for conferring special status to the Hyderabad-Karnataka region and not for a separate State. Against this background, the reported reply of the hon. Home Minister on 25th has ignited public resentment, fury and anger. The hurt and agitated people of the region have reacted sharply and launched protests and demonstrations. They have burnt public and private properties including transport vehicles and effigies. They have also given a call for protest and bandh in the entire region. The unfolding situation and the consequent law and order problem needs to be addressed forthwith to avoid escalation.

Therefore, I would earnestly request, through you, to the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Home Minister to immediately intervene appropriately to soothen the hurt and enraged feelings of the entire region by giving special status to the Hyderabad-Karnataka region. Thank you.

SHRI SHIVARAMA GOUDA (KOPPAL): Sir, I would like to associate myself with the issue raised by Shri N. Dharam Singh.