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Title: Sarvashri Mekapati Raja Mohan Reddy and Shri Muthamsetti Srinivasa Rao made a submission regarding need to extend special category status to the successor state of Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI MEKAPATI RAJA MOHAN REDDY (NELLORE): Madam Speaker, the State of Andhra Pradesh had been divided in a hurried way, in a very unscientific way. At that time, we had objected to the same thing here on the floor of the Lok Sabha. We had been suspended, the Bill was simply passed and it went to the Rajya Sabha. There also, the Members of Parliament in Rajya Sabha from Andhra Pradesh had objected. At that time, both the Congress, which was in power, and the BJP, which was in the Opposition, were actually interested in dividing the State. They thought that they should divide the State and they did it in a hurried way. At that time, the then Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, had promised to give Special Status to the residuary State of Andhra Pradesh for five years. Then, the BJP Members, Shri Arun Jaitley and Shri Venkaiah Naidu, demanded it for ten years. Further, they went on telling that anyhow, they were likely to come to power and they would definitely extend it to ten years. As they said correctly, they have come to power now. The residuary State of Andhra Pradesh is in great financial troubles. We are in great distress. We do not have anything. We have to start from zero now. We have to start from scratch. We do not have Capital, Secretariat, Assembly or anything. We are in a deficit financial state. We thought that at least the Government of India will give special status so that Andhra Pradesh State can develop industrially. Once this status is given, we will definitely get 90 per cent grant and 10 per cent loan. Otherwise, it will be the reverse of it. We thought that at least we can develop the State industrially so that in the coming years, the State can come out of this financial crisis.

Now, very surprisingly, almost one year and three months has passed, but the Government of India is dilly-dallying. They are postponing the things and dragging on the things. Some people say that it is still under consideration, and the then State Finance Minister and Minister of State for Planning has categorically declared that no State will be given special status. Even now, some other Ministers are telling that special status to Andhra Pradesh will be given and it is under consideration of the Government of India.

Now, people are agitating in Andhra Pradesh and abusing us. We are not happy to come over there and shout slogans. We are always law-abiding citizens, and we always abide by your directions. But in spite of that, we are being forced to come over there and shout slogans. Otherwise, our people will not excuse us. They will not pardon us. Hence, we are here to protect their rights, and to protect the rights of Andhra Pradesh.

HON. SPEAKER: Yes, I can understand.

SHRI MEKAPATI RAJA MOHAN REDDY : We demand from the Government of India to declare the State of Andhra Pradesh as a Special Category State. Otherwise, they cannot escape and there is no sanctity for democracy. The then Prime Minister had promised this on the floor of the House, and the then Opposition supported it and said that they will give it for 10 years. ...(*Interruptions*) It is also said in the NDA election manifesto. Hence, we sincerely demand from the Government of India to declare Andhra Pradesh as a Special Category State and accord all permissions as per that. Otherwise, we will not ...(*Interruptions*) We want a very specific and categorical declaration from the Government of India. Otherwise, our people will not pardon us. We cannot go and show our faces to our people. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Why are you prompting him?

SHRI MEKAPATI RAJA MOHAN REDDY : Hence, we demand from the Government of India to declare the State of Andhra Pradesh as a Special Category State. We want a very categorical reply from the Government of India. Thank you, Madam.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri M. Srinivasa Rao, do you want to associate with him?

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO (AVANTHI) (ANAKAPALLI) : Madam Speaker, thank you for allowing me to speak on this matter of urgent importance. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Now, it is not proper. He is also associating with the issue.

...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: No, this is not the way.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO (AVANTHI): Madam, after the Andhra Pradesh Re-organisation Act was enacted by the Parliament in 2014, the previous UPA Government had promised to grant Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh State for five years to offset losses that it could suffer because of the State's bifurcation. All the political parties, including the BJP, supported Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh. As the House knows, the Seemamdhra regions vehemently opposed the split and punished the Congress Party in the General Elections as well as in the State elections that were held simultaneously in Andhra Pradesh.

#### **12.14 hrs**

*At this stage, Shri Y. S. Avinash Reddy and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.*

Madam, the BJP was kind enough to demand in Parliament that Special Category Status be given to Seemandhra for ten to fifteen years. Already, there is unrest among the people of Andhra for not getting Special Category Status. If the decision is delayed further, then it becomes difficult for elected representatives to convince the people. ...(*Interruptions*)

The Central financial assistance to Special Category States is calculated in such a manner that 90 per cent of it is deemed as grant and the remaining 10 per cent is considered as a loan. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Okay, you have made your point.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO (AVANTHI) : So, with bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, Seemandhra has suffered huge financial losses. ...(*Interruptions*) The IT industries, infrastructure industries, educational institutions and Public Sector Undertakings are concentrated only in Telangana State. ...(*Interruptions*) We have to build everything from scratch. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: This is not proper. You are disturbing him. He is saying the same thing.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO (AVANTHI) : In spite of financial constraints, our hon. Chief Minister, Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu, has embarked on an ambitious programme of building the new Capital city by inviting FDIs and creating infrastructure. ...(*Interruptions*) It is a humungous task. ...(*Interruptions*) If Special Category Status is given to Seemandhra, then these things can be implemented in a smooth way. There is a demand for grant of special package for the most backward districts of the Rayalaseema Region and three districts of Uttara Andhra. During the financial year of 2014-15, Andhra Pradesh faced a deficit budget. The Central Government has promised in the A.P. Reorganisation Act that they would take all steps to reduce the deficit budget. It is praiseworthy that our State Finance Minister could tame the revenue and fiscal deficit to acceptable levels by trimming the non-Plan expenditure, but he has expressed an apprehension that the State would continue to be a revenue deficit State even under the Fifteenth Finance Commission, that is, from 2020-2025, if the promised grants, aid and incentives were not extended to the State at the earliest. This needs to be looked into.

For the Telugu Desam Party, the two Ministries are not important, but the interests of the people of Andhra Pradesh are very important. When we had 33 MPs, we had not even asked for a single Ministry, and we supported the Vajpayee Government.

Today, â€¦(*Interruptions*)<sup>□</sup> of the Congress Party came to Andhra Pradesh...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please do not take anybody's name. I understand what you are saying.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO (AVANTHI) : Today, the position of Andhra Pradesh is very, very bad. I am very happy that my friends from YSR Party, after one-and-a-half years, are demanding a Special Category Status for Andhra Pradesh.

माननीय अध्यक्ष: सपोर्ट करते समय इतना नहीं बोलते हैं, आपकी बात का माननीय राजनाथ सिंह जी ने जवाब दे दिया था।

SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO (AVANTHI) : On behalf of all the people of Andhra Pradesh, once again, I request the Government of India to give Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh. This is our humble request, Madam. â€¦(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Now, nothing will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*) \*

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Srinivasa Rao, please take your seat. It cannot be like this. माननीय राजनाथ सिंह जी जो गृह मंत्री हैं, पहले ही आपकी बात का जवाब दे चुके हैं। यह किसी के हाथ में देने की चीज नहीं है। He has already given an assurance regarding whatever you have said.

जितेन्द्र रेड्डी जी आप कुछ कहना चाहेंगे। If you want to say anything, you will have to go back to your seats. I will allow you, if you do that; otherwise, I am not going to allow you.

...(*Interruptions*)

HON. MEMBERS: बाकी का शून्य काल शाम को लिया जाएगा।

**12.17hrs**

### **MATTERS UNDER RULE 377<sup>□</sup>**

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the matters under Rule 377 shall be laid on the Table of the House. Members who have been permitted to raise matters under Rule 377 today and are desirous of laying them may personally hand over the text of the matter at the Table of the House within 20 minutes. Only those matters shall be treated as laid for which text of the matter has been received at the Table within the stipulated time. The rest will be treated as lapsed.