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Title: Need to give special category status to Seemandhra.

SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO (AVANTHI) (ANAKAPALLI): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity to raise a matter of urgent importance.

After the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act was enacted by the Parliament in 2014, the previous UPA Government had promised to grant a Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh State for five years to offset losses it could suffer because of the State's bifurcation. All political parties including the BJP supported Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh. As the House knows, the Seemandhra regions vehemently opposed the split and punished the Congress Party in the General Elections as well as in the State elections held simultaneously in Andhra Pradesh.

With bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, Seemandhra has suffered huge financial losses. IT industry, infrastructure industries, educational institutions and public sector undertakings are concentrated only in Telangana State. We have to build up everything from scratch. In spite of financial constraints, our hon. Chief Minister, Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu has embarked on an ambitious programme of building a new Capital city by inviting FDIs and creating infrastructure. It is a humungous task. 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 financial year of 2014-2015, Andhra Pradesh faced deficit Budget. The Central Government has promised in the A.P. Reorganization Act that they would take all steps to reduce the deficit Budget. It is praiseworthy that our State Finance Minister could tame the revenue ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: So, you want special status and that is your demand.

Next is Shri Jagdambika Pal.

SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO (AVANTHI): Sir, please give me half-a-minute.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No.

SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO (AVANTHI): It is praiseworthy that our State Finance Minister could tame the revenue and fiscal deficit to acceptable levels by trimming the non-plan expenditure. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right.

...(*Interruptions*)