

an>

Title: Need for granting special category status to Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO(AVANTHI) (ANAKAPALLI) : After the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act was enacted by Parliament in 2014, the previous UPA Government had promised to grant Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh for five years to offset losses it would suffer because of the State's bifurcation. All political parties, including the BJP supported special category status to the State. As the House knows, the people of the Seemandhra region vehemently opposed the split.

The BJP was kind enough to demand in Parliament that the 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. 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.

With the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, Seemandhra region 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 has embarked on an ambitious programme of building a new capital city, inviting FDIs and creating infrastructure.

There is a demand for grant of special package for the most backward districts of the Rayalaseema Region and three districts of Uttar Andhra. During financial year of 2014-15 Andhra Pradesh faced deficit budget. The Central

Government has promised in the A.P. Reorganisation Act that they would take all steps to reduce the deficit budget. The State Finance Minister has expressed an apprehension that the State would continue to be a revenue deficit State even under the 15th Finance Commission. This needs to be looked into.

Therefore, I urge upon the NDA Government to grant Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh State at the earliest.