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Title: Regarding special category status to Andhra Pradesh.

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

Madam, after the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act was enacted by the Parliament in 2014, the previous UPA Government had promised to grant Special Category Status to the State of Andhra Pradesh for five years to offset losses it could suffer because of the State's bifurcation. All the political parties, including the BJP, supported giving 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.

Madam, the BJP was kind enough to demand in Parliament that Special Category Status be given to Seemandhra for 10-15 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 the elected representatives to convince the people. The Central financial assistance to Special Category Status 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 loan.

With bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, Seemandhra has suffered a huge financial loss. IT industry, infrastructure industries, educational institutions and Public Sector Undertakings are concentrated only in the Telangana State. We have to build up everything from the scratch. 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, inviting FDIs and creating infrastructure. It is a humongous task. If Special Category Status is given to Seemandhra, then these things can be implemented in a smooth way.

So, there is a demand for grant of special package for the most backward districts of Rayalaseema Region and three districts of Uttara Andhra, Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram and Srikakulam. During the financial year 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 15th 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.

Therefore, through this House, I urge upon the NDA Government to grant Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh State at the earliest as it is a unique case and yet to recover from the bifurcation wounds. I am only echoing the sentiments of the people of Andhra Pradesh in this House. Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

माननीय अध्यक्ष : डॉ. उदित राज जी, मैं आपको एक बात बताना चाहूंगी। जिस तरीके से आपने यह विषय दिया है, किसी दूसरी कोर्ट ने भी इसी प्रकार के कुछ निर्णय दिए हैं, हम उन पर ज्यादा बात न करें, सिर्फ रेफर कर दें तो बेटर रहेगा।

डॉ. उदित राज (उत्तर-पश्चिम दिल्ली) : मैडम, मैं इस चीज को समझता हूँ। धन्यवाद।

मध्य प्रदेश के हाईकोर्ट - जबलपुर हाईकोर्ट ने 30 अप्रैल को जजमेंट दिया और कहा कि वर्ष 2002 के मध्य प्रदेश सरकार के सर्विस रूल्स हैं, वे नियम नागराज केस में पांच जजों वाली सुप्रीम कोर्ट के निर्णय को कन्फर्म नहीं करते हैं। ... (व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : भूरिया जी, आप बैठिए। उनकी बात सुनिए।