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Title: Need to take steps to extend special category status to Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI Y.V. SUBBA REDDY (ONGOLE): Madam, this is with regard to the demand for granting Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh....(*Interruptions*)

While considering the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, the then hon. Prime Minister assured on the floor of Rajya Sabha in no uncertain terms that once the State is bifurcated, the State of Andhra Pradesh would be accorded the Special Category Status for five years. While speaking on the Bill, the hon. Urban Development Minister Shri Venkaiah Naidu had demanded for extending the period to 10 years. ...(*Interruptions*) Since the UPA Government did not accede to that demand, he announced on the floor of the House that the moment BJP comes to power, it will grant Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh for a period of ten years. ...(*Interruptions*) The Bill was passed in February last year and on 1st March, 2014, the Union Cabinet had also approved giving Special Category Status to the State of Andhra Pradesh. It is nearly three years since the assurance was given. ...(*Interruptions*) It is more than two years since the promise made by the BJP leaders that they would not only give Special Category Status but also extend it for 10 years and it is more than two years now since the State was bifurcated. But so far, there is not even a single move from the Government of India's side to provide the Special Category Status. ...(*Interruptions*)

Now, the Government of India says that there is no proposal before the Government of India to accord Special Category Status to any State. The people of Andhra Pradesh were shocked on hearing this news and there are *Dharnas, Rasta Rokos* and other protests all over the State. ...(*Interruptions*)

I want to ask this question to the Government. What is its stand on granting Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh? Even till today, categorically, the Government of India has not said that Special Category Status would not be given to Andhra Pradesh. ...(*Interruptions*) But from the recent special package which was given, I feel that the Government of India is in no mood to give Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh. We want special category status as assured by none other than the Prime Minister. There is misinterpretation that special package will give equal, if not, more than what Special Category Status would give. ...(*Interruptions*) It is all misleading and there is no basis for this. Hence, I demand for grant of Special Category Status immediately to Andhra Pradesh without any further delay.

SHRIMATI BUTTA RENUKA (KURNOOL): Even my subject is also on the Special Category Status only. So, the entire State of Andhra Pradesh is looking for the announcement of special status.

I would like to bring to the notice of this august House and the Government about the burning issue concerning the State of Andhra Pradesh. The entire State of Andhra Pradesh is totally disturbed and agitated over the issue of Special Category Status. The demand for the Special Category Status is neither new nor has it come from the people of Andhra Pradesh. It is a result of historical decision against the wishes of the people of the State of Andhra Pradesh. You are aware of the circumstances in which the State of Andhra Pradesh was divided against the wishes of the people and it was forced on us. ...(*Interruptions*) In the process to satisfy the people of Andhra Pradesh, this offer of Special Category Status was made on the floor of this House by the earlier Government. This very Government, which was in Opposition at that time, had vehemently demanded for extending the period of special status. Thus, both the party in power and the Opposition were unanimous in offering the Special Category Status. ...(*Interruptions*) Today, surprisingly for the reasons not known to us this Government is expressing its inability in conferring Special Category Status on the State of Andhra Pradesh which is burning. ...(*Interruptions*)

Madam, this Government has offered a special package. Instead of Special Package, we demand for the special status.