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Title: Need to accord 'Special Category' status to Odisha.

SHRI BALBHADRA MAJHI (NABARANGPUR): Odisha is the only state which because of its geographical location faces serious national calamity every alternate year which put severe stress on the State's finances. Raghuram Rajan Committee concluded that Odisha is the poorest State of India. The only criterion which Odisha is not fulfilling to get special category status is that it is not bordering a foreign country. There is no scientific reason for the criterion. If some states are backward, it should be taken care of irrespective of whether it is bordering a foreign country or not. If not a foreign country, it is bordering a sea with touches foreign country. Even if a state is in the heart of the country, that should not be a criterion for not putting up that state at par with other states.

It is observed that after NDA Government come to power in 2014, states have been offered special packages, if not special status, for political gains. Special package/status should not be misused for such purpose. When the Government is giving slogan of "Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas" there is need for equitable distribution of resources and to remove disparity in development.

It is, therefore, requested that Odisha be given "Special Category Status" so that it comes up to be at par with other states at the quickest possible time.