

Sixteenth Lok Sabha

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Title: Need to accord special category status to Andhra Pradesh.

**SHRI M. MURLI MOHAN (RAJAHMUNDRY):** The Government of Andhra Pradesh has been requesting the Union Government to accord Special Category Status(SCS) to Andhra Pradesh which was not considered by the Union Government under the pretext that the 14th Finance Commission objected to it. On the other hand, the Union Government went on to say that granting of SCS to Andhra Pradesh had not defined/added in the APR Act, 2014. The Union Government had also made a statement that the Special Status Category already granted to States will be abolished after implementation of GST.

In such a scenario, the Special Package or Special Assistance Measure (SAM) in lieu of SCS was announced by Shri Arun Jaitley ji, Union Finance Minister on 07 September, 2016, had been accepted by the Government of Andhra Pradesh as there was no other option for our Chief Minister. But to our utter dismay, it has been observed that not a single rupee has been allocated to the A.P even under Special Package/SMS so far.

Ironically, we are given to understand that the Union Government has recently extended such SCS to the 11 other States which were enjoying the benefit. It seems the Union Government had adopted the step-motherly treatment towards the State of Andhra Pradesh in fulfilling the promise of granting SCS. Thus, the Union Government has misled the people of Andhra Pradesh on the issue of Special Category Status(SCS). We have no objection for other 11 States which have been extended the benefit of SCS. Why should the Centre show such discrimination towards AP on this issue? When it is possible to continue SCS in other States, why not for Andhra Pradesh?

I therefore, urge upon the Union Government to accord Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh without any further delay.