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Title: Need to accord Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA (GUNTUR): Even after more than 4 years of its bifurcation, Andhra Pradesh still stands at a disadvantageous position. There is no doubt that CM of Andhra Pradesh is sweating it out day in and day out to bring Andhra Pradesh at the level-playing field, but he is not able to do it fully.

The Government of India is aware of these problems and to overcome disadvantages, Union Government decided on 01-03-2014 to accord Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh for 5 years to come out of financial handicap. The Union Government has promised to extend this to 10 years. But, so far no steps have been taken by the Government of India. Hence, I request Government of India to take following steps immediately so that Andhra Pradesh could come out of the present crisis:

1. Special Category Status should be conferred and it should be for 10 years to establish level playing field.
2. Implement Section 46(2) of AP Reorganisation Act which mandates Government of India giving grants, incentives in the form of special development package for Rayalaseema and Northern Andhra Pradesh on the lines of KBK and Bundelkhand.
3. Incentives to industries in the form of tax concessions, etc., at par with HP and Uttarakhand.
4. Government of India assured to build new capital Amaravati. It requires Rs. 3 Lakh crores. Rs. 43,000 crores be released in the next 5 years to construct essential infrastructure.

In the first half of Budget Session, FM made a statement that his team in Finance Ministry would discuss and finalize issues with officials from Finance Department of Government of Andhra Pradesh in 3-4 days. It is one month, but nothing has come out.

So, I request the hon. Prime Minister to implement Cabinet decision of conferring Special Category Status on Andhra Pradesh.