

1	2	3	4	5	6
15.	Uttaranchal	4.16	4.16	4.16	2.08
16.	Uttar Pradesh	8.32	8.32	8.32	8.32
17.	West Bengal	39.56	37.99	39.56	19.78

Special status for Karnataka

1738. SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN:

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the criteria laid down for giving special category status to the States;
- (b) the States, which have been given the special category status, the minimum period of special category status any state can enjoy;
- (c) whether special category status can be extended to Karnataka in view of the serious drought situation in the State;
- (d) if so, whether State Government has requested for any such status; and
- (e) if not, whether any steps have been taken by Government to help the state Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The Special Category Status is given to those States which are having a strategic location on the border with neighbouring countries, hilly terrain, inadequate economic and social infrastructure, predominantly large tribal population, limited and weak resource base compared to development needs.

(b) Special Category Status is given to the following States:

Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and Uttaranchal. The issue relating to the inclusion and/or exclusion of a State for the Status of Special Category has to be decided by the National Development Council (NDC).

(c) Since the State of Karnataka does not have all these features, it is not included under Special Category State. Moreover, devastation by drought or other natural calamities is not a criterion for eligibility to be a Special Category State. However, the 49th meeting of the NDC decided

[1 August, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

that suggestions made before it for looking into the criteria for granting Special Category Status to States should be examined.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The situation arising out of long dry spell during current South-West Monsoon period in some of the States including Karnataka was reviewed in a meeting taken by the Union Agriculture Minister with Agriculture and Relief Ministers of States on 24.7.2002 and the situation is constantly reviewed for suitable action.

Development of roads In North-Eastern Region

1739. SHRI DRUPAD BORGHAIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to develop the infrastructure further particularly in road and highways sector in North-Eastern Region during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether there is any proposal to convert important roads in Assam and in other States of North-Eastern Region into Highways during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) At present there is no proposal to declare new National Highways in Assam or other States of North-Eastern Region. However, based on traffic needs, other priorities and the availability of funds, such proposals may be considered in the Tenth Five Year Plan.

National Highways in Bihar

1740. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the length of National Highways passes through Bihar;

(b) how many kms. of this is fit to travel at the speed of 60 km/hr.;

(c) the length of the road that needs repair and is being repaired presently; and