

(c) and (d) The number of unemployed persons as per NSSO data declined from 11.3 million in 2004-05 to 9.8 million in 2009-10 on UPSS basis. The Twelfth Plan lays emphasis on job creation in the labour intensive sectors like textiles and garments, leather and footwear, gems and jewellery, food processing, etc., and has set a target of creating 50 million additional jobs during the plan period.

Special category status to Bihar

†3332. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the States that have formally requested for granting special status, besides the State of Bihar;

(b) whether newly created States have also requested for granting the special status ever;

(c) if so, when were these requests received and the reaction of the Government thereon;

(d) whether Government is considering about granting special status to the State of Bihar only; and

(e) if not, by when decision is likely to be taken regarding the requests received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA): (a) to (e) The requests have been received for special category status in recent years from Bihar (July, 2011), Jharkhand (November, 2011), Odisha (November, 2011) and Rajasthan (January, 2012). In the case of request received from Jharkhand, it has been communicated in January, 2013 to the Government of Jharkhand that based on an integrated consideration of existing criteria, Jharkhand does not qualify for the grant of special category status. The requests of Bihar, Odisha and Rajasthan for special category status are under examination in the Planning Commission.

Plan allocation provided to Himachal Pradesh

†3333. SHRIMATI BIMLA KASHYAP SOOD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.