

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI INDERJIT SINGH RAO): (a) Due to non receipt of proposal from the State Government of Himachal Pradesh under Integrated Education for the Disabled Children at Secondary Stage (IEDSS) scheme no funds were released during 2010-11.

(b) and (c) Question do not arise in view of the reply above.

Special status to Bihar

996. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to accord special status to Bihar keeping in view the backward condition of the State, if so, by when the formal declaration would be made; and

(b) whether necessary procedure has been completed in this regard, if so, the comprehensive details thereof, and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI INDERJIT SINGH RAO): (a) and (b) Special Category Status for plan assistance has been granted in the past by the National Development Council (NDC) to some States that are characterized by a number of features necessitating special consideration. These features include: (i) hilly and difficult terrain, (ii) low population density and/or sizeable share of tribal population, (iii) strategic location along borders with neighbouring countries, (iv) economic and infrastructural backwardness and (v) non-viable nature of state finances. Earlier, an Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) came to a finding that the case of Special Category Status for Bihar is not made out based on the existing NDC criteria. Another request has been received from the Government of Bihar recently for grant of Special Category Status to Bihar. The request of Bihar for Special Category Status is under consideration.

Pending schemes/ proposals of Himachal Pradesh

†997. SHRIMATI BIMLA KASHYAP SOOD: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the several schemes / proposals of Himachal Pradesh Government lying pending with the Central Government during year 2012-13 and 2014;

(b) the number of schemes / proposals likely to be sanctioned immediately and number of such schemes which have been pending for several years; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.