

Doorstep arrangement to prepare Aadhaar Card

1208. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has made Aadhaar Card mandatory for all purposes;
- (b) if so, whether Government had made any doorstep arrangements to prepare and issue Aadhaar Card to elderly and sick people, unable to visit Aadhaar Card Centres without help; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) Aadhaar enrolment is undertaken on a voluntary basis. Various Enrolment Registrars (both State Government and non-State Government) are encouraged to provide suitable facilities for enrolment of elderly and sick persons on a voluntary basis, to the extent possible.

Special category status of States

1209. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has done away with Special Category Status of the States; if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether Government has received proposal from any State Government seeking the continuation of the Special Category Status to the States; and
- (c) if so, the details of such States and the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) There is no proposal to discontinue the special category status of States.

(b) and (c) Letters have been received from Chief Ministers of Special Category States of Assam, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh and a Resolution from all the Chief Ministers of the North Eastern Region regarding implications of the recommendations of the Fourteenth Finance Commission and allocation in Budget 2015-16. These relate to continuation of benefits under Normal Central Assistance, Special Central Assistance and Special Plan Assistance. As Union Budget 2015-16 (Plan) does not include provision for block grants like NCA, SPA and SCA it would not be possible to provide for the same.