

The increased transfer of resources from Union Government to the States through devolution and Centrally Sponsored Schemes would provide the States with more resources for various sectors for development.

Special category status to Andhra Pradesh

1680. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the then Prime Minister had announced the Special Category Status, Special Economic Packages, fiscal incentives and tax concessions, etc. for Andhra Pradesh on the floor of Rajya Sabha on 20th February, 2014;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Cabinet has subsequently cleared the proposal for giving effect to the said announcements;

(d) if so, the reasons for delay in implementing the decisions;

(e) whether there is any time-frame for implementing the decisions; and

(f) if so, the action taken thereon, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (f) While intervening in the debate on Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Bill 2014 in Parliament on 20th February, 2014 in Rajya Sabha, the then Prime Minister had announced that Special Category Status will be extended to the successor State of Andhra Pradesh comprising 13 districts including the four districts of Rayalaseema and the three districts of north coastal Andhra for a period of five years. Further, he had mentioned that the Bill already stipulates that the Central Government shall take appropriate fiscal measures, including offer of tax incentives to the successor States in order to promote industrialization and economic growth in both the States and a special development package for the backward regions of the successor State of Andhra Pradesh, in particular for the districts of Rayalaseema and north coastal Andhra Pradesh.

In the meeting held on 2nd March, 2014, the Cabinet of the UPA Government, considered the issue of implementation of Special Category Status for Successor State of Andhra Pradesh for a period of five years. No decision has been taken regarding grant of Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh.

As part of the special package to Andhra Pradesh, an amount of ₹ 350 crore (at the rate of ₹ 50 crore per district) has been released for development activities in seven backward districts of Andhra Pradesh consisting of four districts of RayalSeema and three districts of North Coastal region of Andhra Pradesh during 2014-15. During 2015-16, special assistance of ₹ 350 crore (at the rate of ₹ 50 crore per district) was released for the development of these districts.

Regarding the financial assistance to the new capital of Andhra Pradesh, Ministry of Finance, Government of India had released ₹ 500 crore to Andhra Pradesh for the construction of Raj Bhawan and Assembly etc. during 2014-15. Besides this, an amount of ₹ 1000 crore had been released to Andhra Pradesh during 2014-15 by Ministry of Urban Development for creation of essential urban infrastructure for the new capital region of Andhra Pradesh for the following projects:

- (i) Storm water drainage scheme at Vijayawada city (₹ 460 crore) and
- (ii) Comprehensive underground sewerage scheme at Guntur city (₹ 540 crore).

Besides this, Ministry of Finance, Government of India has released an amount of ₹ 350 crore for the new capital of the State during 2015-16.

Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act (APR Act), 2014 (Section 94) *inter-alia* provides that the Central Government shall take appropriate fiscal measures, including offer of tax incentives to the State of Andhra Pradesh and the State of Telangana, to promote industrialization and economic growth in both the States. Accordingly, it has been decided to provide Additional Investment Allowance of 15% of the cost of new asset acquired and installed by an asses See in any notified backward areas in the State of Andhra Pradesh and the State of Telangana for manufacture or production of any article or thing during the period from 1st April, 2015 to 31st March, 2020. In order to incentivize acquisition and installation of plant and machinery for setting up of manufacturing units in the notified backward areas in the State of Andhra Pradesh or the State of Telangana, it is proposed to allow higher additional depreciation at the rate of 35% in respect of acquisition and installation of any new machinery or plant for the purposes of the said undertaking or enterprise during the period 1st April, 2015 and ending before the 1st April, 2020.

Supreme Courts opinion on agreement of power sharing

†1681. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether an agreement had been signed regarding Seeking the Supreme Court's opinion on distribution of power generated by Anandpur Sahib Hydel Project, Mukeria

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.