

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. Necessary clarifications have been provided in various fora. Frequently asked questions about the new series along with replies were placed in the public domain. A Data Users' Conference on the new series was also organized in the month of April 2015 to give the data users an opportunity to interact with the officers associated with compilation of national accounts.

The base year revision exercises are undertaken to capture the changing structure of economy. This ensures capturing latest information and hence, accurately reflects the current economic situation in the country. Therefore, the internationally accepted practice is to release GDP based on only the new series after the base year is revised.

**Central package to Rayalaseema and North Coastal Andhra**

1999. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has released the Central package to the backward districts of Rayalaseema and North Coastal Andhra promised under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay; and

(d) whether the State Government sought enhancement of the package and what is the response of the Centre thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) to (d) The requests received from time to time from the States to provide Central Assistance including Government of Andhra Pradesh for development grant to each of the 7 backward districts of the State of Andhra Pradesh have been dealt with in accordance with provisions of AP Reorganisation Act, 2014 and taking into account resources available with the States and availability of funds with Union Government within Gross Budgetary Support (GBS). Central Assistance of ₹ 700 crore @ ₹ 50 crore per district annually has so far been provided to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for development of 7 backward districts covering Rayalaseema and North Coastal Region of the State during 2014-15 (₹ 350 crore) and 2015-16 (₹ 350 crore) under the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014.