

whether it should go to the Select Committee or not. That is number one. Number two, it is a Constitution Amendment Bill. Therefore, it is a serious issue. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have already decided to defer it.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: When you have a Listed Business, take it up. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is what I am saying. I am going to take that up.

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY (West Bengal): Sir, in the morning meeting, it was unanimously decided that the matter should go to the Select Committee, and Mr. Naqvi also agreed to that.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: But nobody said that. ...*(Interruptions)*... You are only saying it now. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: I only heard. ...*(Interruptions)*... I did not agree; I only heard. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Now you should not change your stand. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Sukhenduji, you have said that only now. Why didn't you tell that at 2.00 p.m. itself? ...*(Interruptions)*... I have already taken the decision. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now I am taking up the Calling Attention. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have taken the decision. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, Calling Attention to matter of urgent public importance. ...*(Interruptions)*... I have decided. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... That is final. Now, Calling Attention to matter of urgent public importance. Kindly note down that the time allotted for it is one hour. It is 2.15 p.m. Everything will be over by 3.15 p.m. The Minister will make a statement. Those who want to put questions can do so. Dr. K.V.P. Ramachandra Rao, stand up and call for the attention of the Minister.

CALLING ATTENTION TO THE MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Need of convening a meeting of the National Development Council to discuss the necessity for continuance of the concept of Special Category Status

DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO (Telangana): Sir, I beg to call the attention of

[Dr. K.V.P. Ramachandra Rao]

the Minister of Planning to the need of convening a meeting of the National Development Council to discuss the necessity of continuance of the concept of Special Category Status.

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर, पहले मिनिस्टर की स्टेटमेंट तो हमारे पास आ जाए! फिर हम क्वेश्चंस कैसे पूछेंगे? ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति: स्टेटमेंट की कॉपी सबको दे दी जाए। ...(व्यवधान)... आप नाराज मत होइए! नरेश अग्रवाल जी नाराज होते हैं, यह अच्छा नहीं है। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: सर, हम नाराज नहीं हो रहे हैं, हमारी आवाज़ थोड़ी तेज़ है। हमें कॉपी नहीं मिली है, इसलिए हम कह रहे हैं। ...(व्यवधान)...

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING; THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): Sir, I lay a statement on the Table of the House also. I rise to speak on the Calling Attention Notice on Special Category Status given by Dr. K.V.P Ramachandra Rao. I request the House that since it is an issue. ...(Interruptions)... Kindly hear me out till the end.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is enough. You can read it. Afterwards you can reply to clarifications. You read it. That is enough.

RAO INDERJIT SINGH: Sir, the National Development Council (NDC) was a body to look after developmental issues of national as well as States, including the Special Category Status to States for Plan assistance during the regime of the Planning Commission.

The Government constituted NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) by a Resolution dated 1st January, 2015 which replaced the Planning Commission. The Governing Council of NITI is a similar body to the NDC which has been formed with the Prime Minister as its Chairperson. The composition of the Governing Council includes *ex officio* Members, NITI Aayog; Vice-Chairperson and Full time Members, NITI Aayog; and Chief Ministers of States. The Special Invitees of NITI Aayog will be the Special Invitees of the Governing Council.

As far as grant of Special Category Status is concerned, Special Category Status for Plan assistance had 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 the borders with neighbouring countries, (iv) economic and infrastructural backwardness, and (v) non-viable nature of State finances. Special Category Status had been granted based on an integrated consideration of all these criteria. The 11 States granted Special Category Status are: Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and Uttarakhand.

The transfer of resources to States is done through the Finance Commission (devolution and grants-in-aid) and assistance for Centrally Sponsored Schemes is done through the concerned Ministry/Department. As per the recommendations in the Report of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, para 2.29 at page 17 of the Report says, 'We did not make a distinction between special and General Category States in determining our norms and recommendation. We believe that while there are certain common factors that impact cost disability and fiscal capacity of States, there exist circumstances that are unique to individual States. Our endeavour has been to take a comprehensive view of these commonalities and special characteristics of individual States while making our assessment and recommendations. In our assessment of State resources, we have taken into account the disabilities arising from constraints unique to each State to arrive at the expenditure requirements. In this regard, we have observed that the North-eastern States and hill States have several unique features that have a bearing on their fiscal resources and expenditure needs, such as low level of economic activity, remoteness and international borders. Our objective has been to fill the resource gaps of each State to the extent possible through tax devolution. However, we have provided post-devolution revenue deficit grants for States where devolution alone could not cover the assessed gap'.

Thus, the Fourteenth Finance Commission in its recommendations has not made any distinction between General Category States and Special Category States in the horizontal distribution of shareable taxes amongst the States. The special needs of States have been addressed while deciding the horizontal distribution of resources for States in which the objective has been to fill the resource gap of each State to the extent possible through tax devolution. Accordingly, the States' share of Central taxes has increased from 32 per cent earlier to 42 per cent for the period 2015-2020 as per the recommendations of the Fourteenth Finance Commission. This is important, Sir. Post-devolution revenue deficit grants have been provided to States where devolution alone could not cover the assessed gap.

The funding pattern for Centrally Sponsored Schemes is based on the Report of Sub-Group on Rationalisation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes. CSS has been further

[Rao Inderjit Singh]

restructured to 28 umbrella schemes with effect from financial year 2016-17 and funding pattern of these schemes has also been revised. Out of the 28 umbrella schemes, for six schemes, which have been categorized as Core of the Core schemes, the existing funding pattern will continue. In the case of the other 20 schemes, which have been categorized as Core schemes, the funding pattern for eight North-Eastern and three Himalayan States will be in the ratio 90:10 between the Centre and the State. Sir, you will notice here that when I mentioned these eleven States, I did not say 'Special Category States'. I categorized them as eight North-Eastern and three Himalayan States where the ratio of funding will 90:10 *vis-a-vis* the Centre and the States. In the balance of the States, for the core schemes, the ratio will be 60:40 *vis-a-vis* the Centre and the States. Funding pattern for the remaining two optional schemes is like this. For North-Eastern and Himalayan States, it will be in the ratio of 80:20 between Centre and the States; whereas for the rest of the States, the funding pattern will be 50:50. Core schemes will have a compulsory participation by the States whereas participation in optional schemes would be done by the choice of the State. Accordingly, the issue of grant of special category status to States has been taken care of with the implementation of the recommendations of the Fourteenth Finance Commission and revision of funding pattern of CSSs, based on the Report of Rationalisation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, there are ten names for putting questions. I will call one by one. Question should be put in two minutes. I have already got the names. Ask questions within two minutes. Shri Pradeep Tamta. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Sir, what about me? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, sorry; after you. You can take five minutes and speak. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: No, Sir. According to the Rules and Procedure of the Rajya Sabha, a Member who initiates the Calling Attention may take not more than seven minutes.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is what I have told you. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: It is seven minutes, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. Five plus two, seven.

DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Sir, perhaps it is the first time in the history of the country that people of a State have been compelled to make repeated requests to a Government elected by them to do justice to them by implementing the promises made by

the then Government and supported by the then Opposition and the present Government during passing of the A.P. Reorganization Bill in this august House itself.

Sir, perhaps it is the first time in the history of the country, a new State of Andhra Pradesh was created without the consent of the State Legislative Assembly and much against the interest of a majority of the people of the State.

Sir, perhaps it is the first time in the history that the Government of India is inventing lame excuses to deny a key promise and a key assurance made as a solace to the people of the State, who lost their capital city along with its abundant resources, in the name of recommendations of the Fourteenth Finance Commission.

Sir, perhaps it is the first time in the history that a Chief Minister of the State, the Union Ministers from the State, Members of Parliament in the ruling party, colluded with the Central Government to deny the legitimate right of people of Andhra Pradesh to get Special Category Status and the promise made by the Prime Minister in the supreme legislative body of the country by citing frivolous reasons from time to time.

Sir, perhaps it is the first time in the history, an assurance given in the Parliament has not been fulfilled even after a lapse of three years and even after the continuous agitations by the people of a State.

Sir, perhaps it is the first time in the history, the Central Government, without any discussion or deliberation with the Chief Ministers of the States, resorted to announce that the concept of Special Category Status ceases to exist in the guise of the Fourteenth Finance Commission recommendations giving a go-by to the principles of federalism and diluting a holistic decision of the NDC.

Sir, the concept of Special Category Status was emerged to bring the under developed States at par with other States of the country and there is a definite need for continuance of the Special Category Status and to give preferential treatment to these States in the form of Central assistance and allow tax exemptions for promotion of industrialisation.

Sir, with your permission, I call the attention of the Government to elicit whether the Central Government has taken any decision as regards continuation or otherwise of Special Category Status. Whenever we, from Andhra Pradesh, had demanded that the promise made on the floor of Rajya Sabha on 20th February, 2014 be honoured, Senior Ministers of NDA Government have said that the Special Category Status has been virtually dispensed with in the light of the recommendations of the Fourteenth Finance Commission. An impression is sought to be given that, as far as devolutions and grants

[Dr. K.V.P. Ramachandra Rao]

are concerned, the Fourteenth Finance Commission has removed the distinction between Special Category States and others. Another impression that is being given is that even if A.P. is declared as Special Category State, no great benefit would accrue.

Sir, let me first demystify the Fourteenth Finance Commission report. It is relevant to note that all that the Fourteenth Finance Commission did was to remove the distinction between Special Category States and others only as regards post-devolution revenue deficit grants and not about other issues.

Sir, the Fourteenth Finance Commission recommendations are only a reason being portrayed to deny Special Category Status to A.P. Factually, the Fourteenth Finance Commission submitted its report in Dec., 2014 and the report was placed before the Parliament. The NDA Government was formed in May, 2014. And, the Bill was placed before the Parliament in February, 2015. Sir, I am asking the Government what stopped the Government in giving Special Category Status to A.P. between May, 2014 and March, 2015. Sir, in these 9 months, they should have taken a decision to give the Special Category Status as promised by the then Prime Minister.

Sir, Shri Arun Jaitley—he was the Leader of the Opposition at the time of passage of the A.P. Reorganization Bill—a legal luminary and now the Finance Minister of the country and Leader of this august House is repeatedly saying that the Fourteenth Finance Commission recommended against the Special Category Status, and the Minister also, in his reply, now stated that the Fourteenth Finance Commission dispensed with the Special Category Status. It is there in the Minister's reply. But the fact is, Dr. Y. V. Reddy, Chairman, Dr. Abhijit Sen and Dr. Govind Rao, members of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, have repeatedly confirmed on record and also in writing that they did not recommend removal of Special Category Status. Further to the astonishment of people of the State, the Union Minister from our State and the Chief Minister are supporting Arun Jaitleyji's arguments and the Minister's statement today.

Sir, it is also wrong to say that there is no distinction between States having Special Category Status and other States after Fourteenth Finance Commission's recommendations. The very fact that even for the Financial Year 2015-16, the first year of the Fourteenth Finance Commission award, erstwhile Andhra Pradesh, having around 8 crore population, is getting ₹ 65,260 crores, whereas the 11 Special Category Status States with a combined population of less than 8 crores are getting ₹ 1, 50,860 crores, almost 130 per cent extra allocations than erstwhile A.P.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, put your question.

DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: This clearly confirms that Special Category States are getting their share even after Fourteenth Finance Commission's recommendations. Additionally, States like A.P. which suffered huge revenue loss as a result of capital city going to Telangana in the reorganization of A.P. need handholding for at least five years.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Put your question. *...(Time-bell rings)...* You are making a speech only. The Mantri have nothing to say. *...(Time-bell rings)...* You ask your question. Otherwise, the Minister will have nothing to say. *...(Interruptions)...*

DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Yes, Sir, I am coming to it. I am giving the background. Keeping this in mind, Dr. Manmohan Singh promised Special Category Status to A.P. for five years, as he, with all his experience thought that it was only Special Category Status category that can keep the new State's finances on firmer footing with necessary tax incentives, exemptions and tax concessions apart from preferential treatment in Centrally Sponsored Schemes and External Aided Projects (EAPs). The present Government, including Shri Arun Jaitley, and his party had welcomed it and demanded to extend it for 10 years at the time of passage of the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, your seven minutes are over. *...(Time-bell rings)...* It is over. *...(Time-bell rings)...* No, seven minutes are over. *...(Time-bell rings)...* I have the other names. *...(Time-bell rings)...*

DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Sir, the Fourteenth Finance Commission itself identified Andhra Pradesh as a State which is having revenue deficit for all of award years even after devolution of 42 per cent taxes.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is over now. *...(Time-bell rings)...* Now, Shri Pradeep Tamta. *...(Time-bell rings)...* That is okay. *...(Interruptions)...* Nothing more will go on record.

DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Pradeep Tamta, put your question. *...(Interruptions)...* No, no, you sit down. *...(Interruptions)...*

DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Sir, my question. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, it is over. *...(Interruptions)...* Now, Shri Pradeep Tamta. *...(Interruptions)...* You got seven minutes; you could have put the question.

DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: I will request, Sir, for further development of the State. *...(Interruptions)...*

*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, he got seven minutes; he could have put the question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Sir, I will finish in just one minute. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, ...*(Interruptions)*... What do I do?

DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Sir, in these circumstances, if there is a need, immediately call for a meeting of the National Development Council to deliberate on the continuance of the Special Category Status in the country including conferring the Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Still, you are reading. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, Shri Pradeep Tamta. ...*(Interruptions)*... Again, you are reading! What is this? ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: In the light of the above, can the hon. Minister give an assurance that the concept of Special Category Status as a concept will be continued.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: My second question, Sir, if promises made on the floor of the Parliament particularly as a condition for passing a Bill under Article 3 of the Constitution are not honoured, the people who have sent us here will lose confidence in the institutions. So, when is the Government announcing Special Category Status to A.P. as promised in this august House? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, yes, when is the Government announcing, is the question. ...*(Interruptions)*... That is okay, sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, Shri Pradeep Tamta. ...*(Interruptions)*... You have only two minutes, put your question. ...*(Interruptions)*... Don't read a statement. I don't agree. Members are not expected to.. ...*(Interruptions)*... You put two questions. Put one or two questions in two minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*... Don't add to it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री प्रदीप टम्टा (उत्तराखंड): सर, Calling Attention का मूल प्रश्न था कि National Development Council की बैठक बुलाकर Special Category Status को जारी रखा जाए। माननीय मंत्री जी ने यहां पर जो पत्र दिया है, जो अपनी statement दी है, इसमें इसका कोई जिक्र नहीं है। पत्र में सिर्फ यह दिया है कि 4th फाइनेंस कमीशन में इसको डी-रेगुलर कर दिया गया, इस जारी Category को समाप्त कर दिया गया है। प्रश्न यह है कि खुद माननीय मंत्री जी कह रहे हैं, कि

महोदय, Special Category Status को लागू करने के लिए पंचवर्षीय योजना के नतीजे के आधार पर 1969 में कुछ राज्यों को, जैसा कि मंत्री जी स्वयं बता रहे हैं, जो hilly States हैं, जहां difficult terrain हैं, जहां पर economic activity कम है, उन 11 राज्यों को देने के लिए, उनके विकास को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए यह concept लाया गया था। हमारा यह प्रश्न है कि उस पर बिना पूरा डिस्कशन किए, बिना NDC की बैठक बुलाए, इस Special Category Status को समाप्त कर दिया गया और उस पर मंत्री जी ने कहा कि एक स्टेट और 3 Himalayan States, इन three Himalayan States को तो आपने बाद में दिया है, जब नीति आयोग ने इसका ऐलान किया ...**(व्यवधान)**... उसके बाद यह मुख्य मंत्री की सब-कमेटी की रिपोर्ट के आधार पर सवाल है। हमारा प्रश्न यह है कि जो परिस्थितियां थीं कि इन राज्यों को विशेष राज्य का दर्जा देने की, वे परिस्थितियां आज भी हैं। उन पर भारत सरकार ने बिना विचार-विमर्श किए, उसको सिर्फ एक कमीशन की रिकमंडेशन के आधार पर खारिज कर दिया। मूल प्रश्न है कि इन राज्यों को, जिनमें उत्तराखंड राज्य भी है, हिमाचल प्रदेश भी है, जो नॉर्थ-ईस्ट की तरह अलग फेडरेशन नहीं है, इस पूरे concept को लागू करने के लिए ...**(समय की घंटी)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. Now, Shri Md. Nadimul Haque.
...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री प्रदीप टम्टा: एक बैठक बुलाएंगी और किसी पार्टी को घाटा हुआ है ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Not going on record. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री प्रदीप टम्टा: *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Md. Nadimul Haque, you start.....*(Interruptions)*... Nothing is going on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Nadimul Haque, put it in two minutes, not even a second more. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE (West Bengal): Sir, West Bengal has inherited a huge debt burden from the 34 years of CPI(M) misrule before the All Indian Trinamool Congress came to power. Sir, we have repeatedly asked the Centre to waive or restructure the outstanding loans. Shri Pranab Mukherjee, who was then the Finance Minister in 2011, understood the plight of our State and allocated a special package worth ₹ 8,750 crore to develop 11 districts under the BRGF. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, under the misrule of Trinamool Congress in Bengal...*(Interruptions)*...they have become professional **
...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Sir, the Centre still owes our State ₹ 2,330 crores. The total money which they still owe is ₹ 10,469 crores. Sir, even at the 11th Inter-State

*Not recorded.

** Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Shri Md. Nadimul Haque]

Council meeting which happened in the Capital last year, our hon. Chief Minister had expressed that there ought to be. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Put your question now. ...*(Interruptions)*... Already one minute is over. Now put your question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Sir, we feel that we are being discriminated in this matter. We have 88 Fast-Track Courts but we are seeing that Gujarat is getting ₹ 400 cores while they have no court and we are not getting any money. Therefore, it is imperative that the concept of Special Category Status for States be continued as it is not only Bengal, but other States like Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Punjab are also debt-stressed. Sir, I would thus urge upon the Government to relook into the matter and release the funds at the earliest to develop all backward areas. Sir, I end by saying,

"दूसरों पर अगर तबसरा कीजिए,
तो सामने आईना रख दिया कीजिए।"
"دوسروں پر اگر تبصرہ کیجئے،
تو سامنے آئینہ رکھ دیا کیجئے"

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Ananda Bhaskar Rapolu.

SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: Now you must explain. ...*(Interruptions)*... or, otherwise, the Trinamool Congress. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Rapolu, you have only two minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*... Put your question.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU (Telangana): Respected Deputy Chairman, Sir, I stand in solidarity with the emotional urge of residuary State of Andhra Pradesh and I appreciate the consistency in agitation of Dr. K.V.P. Ramachandra Rao to promote the issue of Special Category Status to the residuary State of Andhra Pradesh. There is every necessity to relook at the categorization of the States in the country. Only hilly areas and the Himalayan States have been categorized as Special Category Status States. I plead to have a separate, additional category. Let there be two categories. The first category will get 90:10 and 80:20, wherein, the other States like Kerala, Bihar and residuary State of Andhra Pradesh can have 80:20 or 70:30 type of resource allocations. With that only emotional satisfaction can be obtained within Andhra Pradesh. It has gained a momentum where public agitation is going on across the residuary State of Andhra Pradesh. I also take this opportunity to mention an important point. Whenever you decide about the

†Transliteration in Urdu script.

national projects, please review the same in the National Development Council meeting; and decide whether they are eligible for that or not. Likewise in the Telangana State, we are pleading with the Centre for taking up Pranahita – Kaleswaram Project as national project. As my colleague, Dr. K.V.P. Ramachandra Rao has said, I also plead with the Central Government, to convene the National Development Council meeting immediately to decide about the two categories of States and to decide the national projects as per the demands of the people which are growing across the country.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Now, Shri D. Raja, put your questions in two minutes.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Yes, Sir. When the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh was discussed and agreed upon, our Party while supporting the bifurcation, demanded Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh. Sir, I reiterate that stand. When this question was discussed, the BJP was in the opposition. It was the demand of the BJP also; and also demands of the BJP leaders, Mr. Arun Jaitley and Mr. Venkaiah Naidu on the floor of this House. The then Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh conceded their demand and assured Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh. Now, we are discussing it in a general manner the necessity for continuance of the concept of Special Category Status. The statement makes it clear that there will be no special category status to Andhra Pradesh. That is what the statement means. The opening line of the statement says, "The National Development Council was a body to look after development issues of national, as well as, States, including the Special Category Status to States for Plan assistance during the regime of the Planning Commission. The Government has constituted NITI Aayog by the resolution dated 1st January, 2015 which has replaced the Planning Commission. The Governing Council of the NITI Aayog is the similar body to the NDC which has been formed with the Prime Minister as the Chairperson." My question is: Special Category Status for Plan assistance given to eleven States by the National Development Council whether that will continue in the given situation or not. When you say that the National Development Council has been replaced with the Governing Council of NITI, it is a defective statement.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All right. Next, Shri Jairam Ramesh, put your questions in two minutes.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Karnataka): Sir, I will try. Sir, on the 28th February, 2014 while speaking on the Reorganisation of Andhra Pradesh Bill, Dr. Manmohan Singh, the then Prime Minister said, "First, for the purposes of the Central assistance, Special Category Status will be extended to the successive State of Andhra Pradesh comprising

[Shri Jairam Ramesh]

13 districts, including the four districts of Rayalaseema and three districts of North Coastal Andhra for a period of five years. This will put the State finances on a firmer footing." After Dr. Manmohan Singh spoke, there was this exchange between the Deputy Chairman, Prof. P.J. Kurien and Mr. Venkaiah Naidu, then, sitting in these benches.

"MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Naidu, what is it that you want?"

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: The Special Category Status we want for ten years. The Prime Minister is saying for five years." Mr. Sushil Kumar Shinde was the Home Minister. He said, "The Special Category Status for Seema Andhra is for five years as the Prime Minister had announced." This should be for ten years. That is the demand of the people."

Sir, Mr. Modi's Government took GST of Dr. Manmohan Singh's Government forward. Mr. Modi's Government took Aadhaar Card issue of Dr. Manmohan Singh's Government forward. My first question to the hon. Minister is: Why is Mr. Modi's Government not taking the special category status for the successive State of Andhra Pradesh forward? Why is he *, not just the former Prime Minister, but also his most senior colleague, Mr. Venkaiah Naidu, himself?

Sir, the second question I have is this. The Minister, in his statement, gives the impression — this is the impression that we all got from the successive statements of the Finance Minister as well — that the 14th Finance Commission discontinued...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Put the question.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, I contacted the Chairman of the Finance Commission. I contacted the members of the Finance Commission. They have categorically said, on the record, that the 14th Finance Commission has not recommended the abolition of the Special Category Status. All that the 14th Finance Commission says is, for purposes of devolution, the Finance Commission has not distinguished between the States.

My question to the hon. Minister is this. Why is he consistently and continuously misleading the House that the 14th Finance Commission has recommended this abolition, whereas it is only for purposes of devolution?

Sir, my final question....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All right; that is enough. It is already two minutes.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, to the argument that the word 'Special Category Status' is not used and does not continue in practice, I would say that a few days ago, Parliament passed the GST Bill.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Put the question.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: And, what does the Central Goods and Services Tax Bill, 2016, now the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017, Clause 22, Chapter VI, say? It says, "Every supplier shall be liable to be registered under this Act in the State or Union Territory other than Special Category States." This is the GST Bill, which says this about Special Category States. So, I fail to understand what the stand of the Minister of Planning on this is.

Sir, finally...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay; now, Shri Naresh Agrawal. ...*(Interruptions)*... No more questions now. Mr. Naresh Agrawal. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, please. No 'special category' for Mr. Jairam Ramesh. Now, Shri Naresh Agrawal; two minutes, please.

SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Sir, two to four minutes would be sufficient.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no; only two minutes.

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: माननीय उपसभापति जी, मिस्टर राव ने जो मुद्दा उठाया है, मैं भी इससे सहमत हूँ, क्योंकि यह इस सदन में घोषणा हुई थी। जब आंध्र प्रदेश का रीऑर्गेनाइजेशन हुआ था, तेलंगाना और आंध्र प्रदेश बने थे, दिग्विजय सिंह जी बैठे हैं, इन्हीं की रिकमंडेशन पर ये दो हिस्से बंटे हैं, इन्हीं की रिकमंडेशन थी कि आंध्र प्रदेश को स्पेशल कैटेगरी में लिया जाएगा, जिसके लिए अलग से मानक बनाएंगे। चूंकि उस समय ये लोग इधर बैठे हुए थे, ये भी मांग कर रहे थे, वेंकैया जी सबसे ज्यादा मांग कर रहे थे, तो मैं चाहूंगा कि सरकार को इसकी घोषणा करनी चाहिए।

श्रीमन्, दूसरी चीज़ मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि जब से प्लानिंग कमीशन बना, तो पांच तरह की कैटेगरीज़ मंत्री जी ने बताई, ये पांचों तरह की कैटेगरीज़ रही हैं। अगर आप उन कैटेगरीज़ में देखें, तो इसमें 11 स्टेट्स आए और ये सभी 11 स्टेट्स हिली स्टेट्स हैं, जो हिमालय के एराउंड हैं। उसके बाद इसमें एक भी प्लेन का स्टेट नहीं आया, क्योंकि उसकी जो कंडीशंस हैं, जो कैटेगरीज़ हैं, उनमें प्लेन्स का कोई वर्णन ही नहीं है। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि अगर उन कैटेगरीज़ में स्टेट का एरिया, स्टेट की पॉपुलेशन और स्टेट की बैकवर्डनेस इकोनॉमिकली, इन चीज़ों को और डाल दें, तो शायद बहुत सी स्टेट्स को इसका लाभ मिल जाए। जब राज्य योजना आयोग था और जब स्टेट अपना प्लान लेकर जाते थे, तो 60:40 का रेश्यो देने के बाद 100 परसेंट स्टेट्स के प्लान कट जाते थे, क्योंकि स्टेट की रेवेन्यू 40 परसेंट नहीं हो पाती थी। सेवन्थ पे-कमीशन के बाद और बुरी स्थिति हुई और आज सभी राज्य उस स्थिति में नहीं हैं।

श्री उपसभापति: आप अपना प्रश्न पूछिए।

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल: सर, मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि क्या माननीय मंत्री जी, जो मैंने तीन कैटेगरीज़ और बताई हैं, उन तीन कैटेगरीज़ को स्पेशल कैटेगरी के स्टेट्स के मानकों की कैटेगरी में जोड़ेंगे? दूसरा, जो राज्यों ने मांग की है कि 60:40 के रेश्यो को 80:20 का कर दिया जाए, तो क्या उस पर चौदहवां फाइनेन्स कमीशन कंसीडर करते हुए अपनी कोई रिपोर्ट देगा?

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, the statement given by the Minister is factually incorrect and is quite misleading. I draw your attention to the last paragraph of the Statement. "Accordingly, the issue of grant of Special Category Status for the State has been taken care of with the implementation of the recommendations of the Fourteenth Finance Commission." Sir, in fact, he has reproduced the recommendations of the Fourteenth Finance Commission. The Fourteenth Finance Commission has merely stated that there is no distinction; it has not made any distinction between the 'Special Category' States and other States in so far as post-devolution revenue deficit grants are concerned. That is what they have stated. I really don't know whether the concerned Minister has rightly understood it or not. To the best of my knowledge, it is only a recommendation. By implementing this recommendation, the Government is not doing any justice to the State of Andhra Pradesh. I will explain, Sir.

I have three questions to put. My first question is to the House. Probably, the Secretary-General has to address it. Has the assurance that has been given to Members, on the floor of the House, by the then hon. Prime Minister of India has been recorded as an assurance or not?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, that question is not permitted. You can put questions only to the Minister.

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: I would like to know whether that has been recorded as an assurance or not.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That question is not permitted. You put the question to the Minister himself.

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Secondly, in fact, the Fourteenth Finance Commission Report calculated the average per capita Gross State Domestic Product, wherein the GSDP of Andhra Pradesh for 2012-13 is only ₹ 73,979, which is much lower than the remaining eleven States which have been declared as 'Special Category' States. Therefore, the figure is much lower. Also, Sir, on the Fourteenth Finance Commission, I am giving in percentage points. On the percentage of devolution of funds from the Central Pool of Taxes to the State, the Minister stated that it is increased from 32 per cent to 42 per cent. It might be true in terms of the overall percentage. Particularly to Andhra Pradesh and Telangana put together, as per the Thirteenth Finance Commission, it was 6.937 whereas in Fourteenth Finance Commission, the percentage of devolution has come down to 6.742. The Government today has not done any justice to the State of Andhra Pradesh. It is very much required to raise it for the State of Andhra Pradesh. Thank you.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I would like to draw the attention to the reply given by the Minister to the Calling Attention Motion moved by Dr. K.V.P. Ramachandra Rao—'one of the items for Special Category Status is non-viable nature of State finances'. Here, there are very peculiar circumstances. Erstwhile Andhra Pradesh was having a population of eight crores having Hyderabad as its capital. Two brothers had difference in their cultures and they separated amicably. When they separated amicably, we found that the Hyderabad city has been given as capital to Telangana because of geological position. Then, Andhra Pradesh had no capital. The revenue which was generated through the Hyderabad city had fallen and it received very less amount. It now has much less industrial units as compared to the Hyderabad city. Taking into account these circumstances, the Government then thought of giving it Special Category Status because of special circumstances. It is not as in some of the States, which are given the Status because of backwardness. The State was flourishing having Hyderabad city as its capital which has now been taken away. There is no capital for it and there is no income or revenue for Andhra Pradesh. Therefore, Special Category Status should be given. That is what everybody has said, including Mr. Jairam Ramesh, and the then Prime Minister had committed to it. Now, my point to the present Government is, it can't say, "No, NDA was not in power then. We are not agreeable to it. We will go by what the Finance Commission says." It is totally different. The circumstances for the separation of Andhra Pradesh were totally different. They are unique in the Indian history. Since Independence, a thing like this has never happened to any State. So many States were carved out. Bihar was bifurcated. The capital for Jharkhand, a small State, was created. Chhattisgarh was carved out of Madhya Pradesh. Chhattisgarh is also a small State. When Andhra Pradesh was separated, the big State was without Capital and the small State got big Capital. This is not anybody's fault. Circumstances were such. Therefore, they want a Special Category Status to be given to it considering the special circumstances. Therefore, my question is this. As mentioned by Shri Jairam Ramesh, what is the difficulty being faced by you in giving Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh? Bearing in mind the fact that Hyderabad is gone and there is no Capital for the State, the Government should consider it. *...(Time-bell rings)...* Something has definitely gone wrong. *...(Time-bell rings)...* Therefore, I want the commitment of the Government on this issue. *...(Time-bell rings)...* The clarification that has been given has no connection with Andhra Pradesh. *...(Time-bell rings)...* Therefore, I want the commitment of the Government कि मिस्टेक हो गई और फ्यूचर में they will give Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO (Odisha): Sir, I will only take two minutes. The Rajan

[Shri A.U. Sing Deo]

Panel of 2013 marked Odisha as one of the most backward States and a large cause behind it was uneven allocation of funds to the State. The Report recommends that each of 28 States get 0.3 per cent of overall Central funds allocated and of the remaining 91.6 per cent, three-fourth be allocated based on need. While that may be considered and is welcomed by the State, the retiring of Special Category cannot be the way forward when resource allocation is considered because new indicators should be added to old ones and the latter not entirely done away with. सर, मेरे कहने का मतलब यह है कि ओडिशा एक गरीब राज्य है। आप यह देख कर हैरान होंगे कि उसमें SCs की पॉपुलेशन, as per the Census of 2011, the Scheduled Tribe population is 22.1 per cent of the State population and 9.7 per cent of the total tribal population of the country. This is considerable, Sir. और इसे Special Category State के लिए consider करना चाहिए। ओडिशा की तरफ से यह डिमांड 1979 से चली आ रही है। ओडिशा में जो अलग-अलग सरकारें रहीं और मुख्य मंत्री रहे, वे ओडिशा के लिए Special Category State की डिमांड करते रहे हैं। इसके लिए मंत्री जी ने जो भी क्राइटीरिया बताए हैं, उन सबको हम meet करते हैं, except that of the international boarder. We may not be landlocked. We have lot of sea around us which is causing problems in the development of our State. सर, हम मंत्री जी से और सरकार से यह जानना चाहेंगे कि एक ज़माने में जब बिहार के इलेक्शंस थे, तब इन लोगों ने बताया कि 'we are considering Bihar as a Special Category State.' ठीक है, वे बनाएं, we are happy. But they have not considered Odisha. That consideration is not fair. सर, दो मिनट हो गए **...(समय की घंटी)...** हम मंत्री जी से सिर्फ दो क्वेश्चन पूछना चाहते हैं। मेरा पहला क्वेश्चन यह है कि 1979 से लेकर आज तक, ओडिशा को Special Category State declare करने के लिए हम आपसे रिक्वेस्ट करते चले आ रहे हैं, आपने इसे Special Category State declare क्यों नहीं किया? और मेरा दूसरा क्वेश्चन यह है कि ओडिशा को कब तक आप Special Category State declare करेंगे?

SHRI A. NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I have only one question to put. Why is funding pattern of core schemes not disclosed in the statement of the hon. Minister? In core schemes, funding by the State Governments is compulsory. Why is the Central Government then calling it as a Centrally-Sponsored Scheme? Thank you.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, if you see the Calling Attention notice, it says, 'draws the attention of the Minister on convening the meeting of National Development Council...' Now, to go back to the history, Sir, in 1969 the National Development Council decided a few criteria to decide on a Special Category State. As for Andhra Pradesh, I would only mention, 'non-viable nature of State finances'. It is one of the points on which the Special Category Status was to be given to a State. Now, Sir, if you see how the Leader of the House, the Finance Minister, and the Minister have

3.00 P.M.

been misleading the House on the issue of Special Category Status. They have taken shelter under the Finance Commission's recommendation, which is quite contrary to what the real issue is. First of all, my question to the hon. Minister is, because the National Development Council has been converted into NITI Aayog, would the hon. Minister consider giving a Special Category Status to the State of Andhra Pradesh in the meeting of the NITI Ayog? This is number one.

Number two is: The Hon. Minister is taking shelter under the Finance Commission Report, but there are other issues, like share of expenditure between the Centre and the State on Centrally-Sponsored Schemes and other schemes. Usually, for a Special Category State, the share is 90:10 or 80:20 under new dispensation. The second benefit is, debt swapping and debt relief. And, the third one is, tax exemption to promote industrialization.

Sir, out of these three, nothing has been given to the State of Andhra Pradesh. Therefore, what I would like to ask the hon. Minister is this. Hon. Civil Aviation Minister is sitting next to him. I request him to please whisper in the ears of hon. Planning Minister that Special Category Status be given to Andhra Pradesh, so that we can go back and say that Mr. Modi for once, Mr. Venkaiah Naidu for once and Mr. Arun Jaitley for once, have fulfilled an election promise. Sir, in April, 2014, in the holy city of Tirupati, before Lord Balaji, Shri Narendra Modi, Shri Venkaiah Naidu and Mr. Chandrababu Naidu, promised, not five, not ten but fifteen years of Special Category Status if they come to power. Therefore, I wish to remind them and also request that for once not make this a jumla but let this election promise be fulfilled.

Thank you.

DR. K. KESHAVA RAO (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I will be specific.

Mr. Minister, the Calling Attention Notice is very specific. The notice calls your attention to two things — one is what had happened in the House here. When hon. Members asked the Chair whether assurance by the hon. Prime Minister on the floor of the House can be codified as one of the provisions in the Bill, he said, 'No. The assurance of the Prime Minister is enough.' So, the aspect to which we are drawing your attention is this. This House had given some kind of an opinion or given an assurance which has to be implemented. Now, you have brought in, what is known as, the Fourteenth Finance Commission. So, I also bring in the Fourteenth Finance Commission. Sir, the Chairman of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, Dr. Y.V. Reddy, told us in Hyderabad, in an open

[Dr. K. Keshava Rao]

meeting, that they have never recommended for scrapping Special Category Status to States. I was sharing the platform with him on that day. We tried to find out subtleties of difference between special category status and funding - as to what exactly the Commission meant by special category. Sir, the Fourteenth Finance Commission was concerned only with regard to devolution of funds between the States and the Union. You have done well; everybody is happy. But, now, here, what we are asking is this. Special Category Status is not there in the Constitution. It is a new nomenclature that we have given. What we are asking today is: This House, this Government, these very Members wanted some kind of an aid to be given to Andhra Pradesh. It has nothing to do with the Fourteenth Finance Commission. The Calling Attention Motion is demanding for calling a meeting of the NDC. As one of my colleagues said, let there be no categorization. Let there be a discussion how many categories we would like to have. That is exactly the question. It is not about devolution. If the NITI Aayog is taking this up with the NDC, I can understand. The Special Category Status is not there in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act. It is not there in any executive order issued by the Government. It is nowhere mentioned in any document at all. However, you are saying about transfer of funds, devolution of funds, but not the basic issue that we have raised and the issue is treating Andhra Pradesh under special circumstances, giving special consideration by granting special category or special status or special help or special look.

Thank you.

विपक्ष के नेता (श्री गुलाम नबी आज़ाद): सर, मुझे भाषण नहीं करना है। मैं माननीय मिनिस्टर से दो-तीन प्वाइंट्स पूछना चाहूँगा। एक तो मैं कॉलिंग अटेंशन के बारे में कहना चाहूँगा कि आन्ध्र प्रदेश के बारे में प्रॉमिस किया गया था कि उसे Special Category Status में शामिल किया जाना चाहिए, तो उसके लिए मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से कहूँगा, रिक्वेस्ट करूँगा कि आन्ध्र प्रदेश Special Category Status deserve करता है। लेकिन जिन 10 स्टेट्स को Special Category Status दिया गया है, वे सब छोटे स्टेट्स हैं, पहाड़ी स्टेट्स हैं, जिनको revenue का कोई भी साधन नहीं है। जैसे जम्मू-कश्मीर है, वहाँ कोई भी revenue नहीं है। ऐसे ही उत्तराखंड, हिमाचल प्रदेश और नॉर्थ-ईस्ट के स्टेट्स हैं। उनके लिए मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहूँगा कि जब यूपीए गवर्नमेंट थी, तब Finance Commission के द्वारा जो normal funding होती थी, इसके अलावा SCA होता था, इन तमाम Special Category Status वाले States को Special Central Assistance दी जाती थी, लेकिन जब से एनडीए गवर्नमेंट आई है, तो यह जो Special Central Assistance है, इसे बंद कर दिया गया। यह तो Special Category Status के लिए मूल बात है। आप Special Category Status में स्टेट्स को लाएँगे भी, लेकिन जो concessions थे, वे withdraw किये जाएँगे, तो Special Category का फायदा क्या है?

इसी तरह से इन Special Category Status वाले States को दूसरा concession यह था कि जितनी भी Centrally Sponsored Schemes थीं, उनमें 90:10 की व्यवस्था थी, यानी 90 per cent

funding Government of India देती थी और 10 per cent State Government देती थी। यह हमारे यूपीए गवर्नमेंट के समय में था। लेकिन जब से नयी गवर्नमेंट आयी है, इससे उसको कहीं पर 60:40 किया है, कहीं 75:25 किया है और कहीं पर 50:50 किया है। तो यह जो एक दूसरा बड़ा concession था, जो Special Category के States को दिया जाता था, यह withdraw कर दिया गया है।

इसके साथ-साथ, जितने भी पहाड़ी इलाके हैं, चाहे वह जम्मू-कश्मीर हो या दूसरे स्टेट्स हों, वहाँ ecology balance maintain करना सबसे बड़ा काम है। अगर हमें सड़क बनानी है, उसे पहाड़ के बीच में से ले जाना है, तो पहाड़ गिर जाएगा, पेड़ गिर जाएंगे, उसके लिए Special funding होनी चाहिए। कश्मीर में दो साल पहले बाढ़ आई थी, तो पूरा कश्मीर उसमें डूब गया था। ऐसे में Disaster Management के लिए Special Category के States को हमारी special assistance होनी चाहिए। तमाम चीजें हैं। सिर्फ Special Category लिख दिया, कोई नया concession तो दिया नहीं और जो पुराना था, उसे भी withdraw कर दिया, इसीलिए हम NDC की मीटिंग चाहते हैं, ताकि उसमें चर्चा हो। Special Category वाले इन states के जितने भी चीफ मिनिस्टर्स और ऑफिसर्स हैं, उनको उसमें अपनी बात कहने का मौका देना चाहिए और वह concession उनको वापस करना चाहिए, यही मेरी माँग है।

† قائد حزب اختلاف (جناب غلام نبی آزاد): سر، مجھے بھاشن نہیں کرنا ہے۔ میں مانیتے منسٹر سے دو تین پوائنٹس پوچھنا چاہوں گا۔ ایک تو میں کالکنگ اٹینشن کے بارے میں کہنا چاہوں گا کہ آندھرا کے بارے میں وعدہ کیا گیا تھا کہ اسے Special Category اسٹیٹس میں شامل کیا جانا چاہیئے، تو اس کے لیے میں مانیتے منتری جی سے کہوں گا، ریکویسٹ کروگا کہ آندھرا پردیش Special Category Status deserve کرتا ہے۔ لیکن جن دس اسٹیٹس کو Special Category Status دیا گیا ہے، وہ سب چھوٹے اسٹیٹس ہیں، پہاڑی اسٹیٹس ہیں، جن کو ریونیو کا کوئی بھی سادھن نہیں۔ جیسے جموں و کشمیر ہے، وہاں کوئی بھی ریونیو نہیں ہے۔ ایسے ہی اتراکھنڈ، ہماچل پردیش اور نارٹھ ایسٹ کے اسٹیٹس ہیں۔ ان کے لیے میں مانیتے منتری جی سے پوچھنا چاہوں گا کہ جب یو پی اے گورنمنٹ تھی، تب فائننس کمیشن کے ذریعہ نارمل فنڈنگ ہوتی تھی، اس کے علاوہ SCA ہوتا تھا، ان تمام Special Category Status والے states کو Special Central Assistance دی جاتی تھی، لیکن جب سے این ڈی اے گورنمنٹ آئی ہے، تو یہ جو Special Central Assistance ہے، اسے بند کر دیا گیا۔ یہ تو Special Category Status کے لیے

[شری گولام نबी آجاءاد]

مول بات ہے۔ آپ Special Category Status میں اسٹیٹس کو لائیں گے بھی، لیکن جو concessions تھے، وہ withdraw کئے جائیں گے، تو Special Category Status کا فائدہ کیا ہے؟

اسی طرح سے ان Special Category Status والے اسٹیٹس کو دوسرا کنسیشن یہ تھا کہ جتنی بھی سینٹرل اسپانسرڈ اسکیمس تھیں، ان میں 90:10 کی ویسوسٹھا تھی، یعنی 90 فیصد فنڈنگ گورنمینٹ آف انڈیا دیتی تھی اور 10 فیصد اسٹیٹ گورنمینٹ دیتی تھی۔ یہ ہمارے یوپی۔اے۔ گورنمینٹ کے دور میں تھا۔ لیکن جب سے یہ نئی گورنمینٹ آئی ہے، اس نے اس کو کہیں پر 60:40 کیا ہے، کہیں 75:25 کیا ہے اور کہیں پھر 50:50 کیا ہے۔ تو یہ جو ایک دوسرا بڑا کنسیشن تھا جو اسپیشل کٹیگری کے اسٹیٹس کو دیا جاتا تھا، یہ withdraw کر دیا گیا ہے۔

اس کے ساتھ ساتھ، جتنے بھی پہاڑی علاقے ہیں، چاہے وہ جموں-کشمیر ہو یا دوسرے اسٹیٹس ہوں، وہاں ecological balance maintain کرنا سب سے بڑا کام ہے۔ اگر ہمیں سڑک بنانی ہے، اسے پہاڑ کے بیچ میں سے لے جانا ہے، تو پہاڑ گر جانے گا، پیڑ گر جائیں گے، اس کے لئے اسپیشل فنڈنگ ہونی چاہئے۔ کشمیر میں دو سال پہلے باڑھ آئی تھی، تو پورا کشمیر اس میں ڈوب گیا تھا۔ ایسے میں Disaster Management کے لئے اسپیشل کٹیگری کے اسٹیٹس کو ہماری special assistance ہونی چاہئے۔ یہ تمام چیزیں ہیں۔ صرف اسپیشل کٹیگری لکھ دیا، کوئی نیا کنسیشن تو دیا نہیں اور جو پرانا تھا، اس سے withdraw کر دیا۔ اسی لئے ہم این۔ڈی۔ایس۔ کی میٹنگ چاہتے ہیں، تاکہ اس میں چرچا ہو۔ اسپیشل کٹیگری والے ان اسٹیٹس کے جتنے بھی چیف منسٹرس اور آفیسرس ہیں، ان کو اس میں اپنی بات کہنے کا موقع دینا چاہئے اور وہ کنسیشن ان کو واپس کرنا چاہئے، یہ میری مانگ ہے۔

SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN (Kerala): Sir, I had also given one name. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am sorry, your name is not here. ...*(Interruptions)*... Neither it is in the list, nor have I received it later on. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: But, Sir, I had given. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is not here. ...*(Interruptions)*... No, it is not here. ...*(Interruptions)*... No; no. It is not here. ...*(Interruptions)*... I can't allow like this. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is not here. ...*(Interruptions)*... The Calling Attention is never taken up party-wise. I will call only if I have received your name. I cannot call anybody else. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: I had given it even before this started. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, your name is not here. ...*(Interruptions)*... What can I do? ...*(Interruptions)*... No; no, Mr. Minister. I can't allow. ...*(Interruptions)*... This can't be done. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: But Shrimati Jharna Das Baidya had given her name. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: She is not here. What can I do? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: She is here. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Where is she? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: She has gone. He may be allowed. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; no. I have told you that the Calling Attention is never taken up party-wise. Had it been party-wise, I would have called another person. The Calling Attention goes by the names received here, whichever party they might belong to. ...*(Interruptions)*... You could have sent me a slip. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. C.P. Narayanan, you knew that Shrimati Jharna Das Baidya was not here, you could have, at least, sent me a slip. You didn't even send me a slip. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: I wanted her to be here. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: For that, I am not responsible. If you wanted her to come here, what can I do? I can't do anything. This is the way I want to proceed on the

[Mr. Deputy Chairman]

Calling Attention. I was very strict here. If I deviate from that, then, I will have to allow too many Members. I am sorry. ...*(Interruptions)*... Yes, Mr. Minister.

RAO INDERJIT SINGH: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, over the past three years, this Government has thought out of the box, and acted out of the box. ...*(Interruptions)*... The Congress Government, for a number of years, tried to develop the country. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: You were part of that.

राव इन्द्रजीत सिंह: अंदरूनी जानकारी हमें भी है। ...*(Interruptions)*... Over the last few decades, the Congress tried to bring forward the developmental agenda through the Planning Commission. This Government has done away with the Planning Commission. The reason for that is not hard to find. There are a few senior leaders here who have been Chief Ministers, in their earlier years, of various States, like Mr. Digvijaya Singh or Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad. During the Planning Commission era, for getting grants for their respective States, these Chief Ministers had to make a pilgrimage to the Planning Commission and meet the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission to try and evolve some funds for their States. Where the Chief Ministers did not go, the Chief Secretaries went; and, where the Chief Secretaries did not go, the Secretaries went. It was a humiliating experience for any State, which is a part of the federal structure — a pilgrimage to Delhi and ask for funds to develop their own State. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Kerala): What is wrong in it?

RAO INDERJIT SINGH: Sir, we have done away with this humiliating experience. The States and their Chief Ministers, the Chief Secretaries and the Secretaries are no longer required to go to the Planning Commission to ask for funds. Like, I said, this Government thought out of the box. Since our present Prime Minister was also at one time the Chief Minister and he had to undergo these humiliating experiences, one of the first things that he did was that he did away with this agency, which was humiliating too. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Sir, not releasing the fund, is that humiliation! ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Sir, * ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. You sit down. That is not going on record. ...*(Interruptions)*... Let the Minister speak. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Minister, don't get

*Not recorded.

distracted. You address the Chair. No more questions. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Minister, address the Chair. Don't get distracted. I have allowed everybody. ...*(Interruptions)*...

RAO INDERJIT SINGH: Sir, I am addressing the Chair. But I can hear him though he has not been called. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. No need. I have not allowed that question. Unless I allow a question, you need not reply. I am not allowing anybody else.

RAO INDERJIT SINGH: Sir, when I began my statement, I requested to listen to me entirely, because I know that this is an emotional issue with various Members, from various States. If I am going to say what I have to say, I need to say it in silence and without interruptions from the Members. So, what I was trying to say was that there was a humiliating experience where the Chief Ministers had to come to the Planning Commission for getting funds for their States. We have done away with that pilgrimage. ...*(Interruptions)*... What we have done instead is. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What Dr. Ramachandra Rao is saying is not going on record. It is not going on record. Sit down.

DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: *

RAO INDERJIT SINGH: Sir, during my membership of the State for 20 years, we used to look to the Rajya Sabha as an institution where we are able to debate. Interruptions were left to UP, Haryana, and maybe, Tamil Nadu, and, sometimes, Bengal. But, here, I find that the States are better run, and some of the Members over here are interrupting and spoiling the reputation of the Rajya Sabha.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no; you reply. Don't be bothered by that.

RAO INDERJIT SINGH: To be more specific, Sir, I would like to first of all thank all the Members who have participated in this debate. I would like to thank Mr. Rao, Mr. Tamta, Mr. Raja, Mr. Jairam Ramesh, Mr. Naresh Agrawal, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, Shri Digvijaya Singh, Shri Krishnan, Mr. A.U. Singh Deo amongst others. ...*(Interruptions)*... Yes, Mr. Reddy; first and foremost, Dr. Subbarami Reddy.

Sir, the basic principle of awarding 'Special Category State' was that the NDC would approve it. The NDC was, as I said, in the era of the Planning Commission. The last State to be given 'Special Category Status' was Uttarakhand way back in 2001. Thereafter, no

*Not recorded.

[Rao Inderjit Singh]

State has been given Special Category Status. I don't deny that the Prime Minister and the Cabinet of the previous Government announced in the Rajya Sabha that 'we will give Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh for a period of five years.' ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: *

RAO INDERJIT SINGH: We are not giving Andhra Pradesh 'Special Category Status'. So, please keep quiet. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have noted down the points. Look at that and reply. Look at the Chair only. Don't look anywhere else.

RAO INDERJIT SINGH: Sir, there were suggestions made by some of the speakers here that I was trying to mislead the House *vis-a-vis* the Statement that I read out. Now, I would like you to hear this Report of the 8th of September, 2016 by the Government of India, Ministry of Finance. The Statement of the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, on 20.02.2014 contains six paragraphs. And I quote, "There are no issues regarding five out of the six paragraphs. With regard to the first point, that is, the grant of special status, it was said 'An apparent conflict has set in between the Statement and the recommendations of the Fourteenth Finance Commission which came subsequently.' The Fourteenth Finance Commission recommendations were accepted by us in toto, and, thereafter, the States were given a 10 per cent increase from out of the Central divisible pool of taxes. And further the Statement itself of the Finance Ministry, the Press Release from the Press Bureau, ends up by saying, 'Thus the Government of India has effectively addressed all commitments made to the State of Andhra Pradesh in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, the Fourteenth Finance Commission and the Statement of the Prime Minister on 20.02.2014.' Now, regarding the first statement that Andhra Pradesh should be given Special Category Status, as announced by the previous Prime Minister in this House, like I had mentioned earlier, the NDC should and has in all previous cases approved the Special Category Status for all these eleven States that were there before the NITI Aayog was formed. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, in the case of Uttarakhand, the NDC endorsed.

RAO INDERJIT SINGH: I accept.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: The NDC endorsed the decision of the Mr. Vajpayee's Government to give Special Category Status to Uttarakhand. ...*(Interruptions)*... It was the decision of Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee which was endorsed by the NDC. ...*(Interruptions)*...

*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You continue your reply. ...*(Interruptions)*... You continue your reply. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, he is misleading the House. ...*(Interruptions)*...

RAO INDERJIT SINGH: Sir, the NDC has endorsed and approved all the previous eleven Special Category States. And that conforms to what he is saying. ...*(Interruptions)*... What I am saying is that regarding Andhra Pradesh, there was no approval or endorsement by the NDC. The Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You cannot raise questions now. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K. KESHAVA RAO: Sir, I have a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, I have a very serious point to make. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Sir, the Minister... ...*(Interruptions)*...

RAO INDERJIT SINGH: On 21.02.2014, the Prime Minister announced that there would be Special Category Status for Andhra Pradesh for a period of five years. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Sir, endorsement by NDC... ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K. KESHAVA RAO: Sir, I have a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Listen to this. ...*(Interruptions)*... If the Minister is not yielding, I can't do anything. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K. KESHAVA RAO: Sir, I have a point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No. For that, the Minister has to yield. No point of order. He is speaking. ...*(Interruptions)*...

RAO INDERJIT SINGH: Our Government was formed on 26th May, 2014. ...*(Interruptions)*... Between the then PM's announcement and the formation of our Government, there was a span of three months. The Congress Government could have very well within those three months asked the NDC to approve and endorse the commitment made by the Prime Minister in this House. They did not. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, there was an election code from the first of March, 2014. The election code...*(Interruptions)*... He is misleading the House...*(Interruptions)*... He is completely misleading the House. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Sir, ever since he joined the... *...(Interruptions)...*

DR. K. KESHAHA RAO: Sir, I have a point of order. *...(Interruptions)...*

RAO INDERJIT SINGH: Our Government took charge of office on 26.05.2014. After three months, on the 15th of August *...(Interruptions)...*

DR. K. KESHAHA RAO: Sir, I am on a point of order. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Do you want to raise a point of order when he is speaking? *...(Interruptions)...*

DR. K. KESHAHA RAO: Sir, we are discussing what this House decided and he is saying that this House did not get the endorsement of NDC. Do you think we are subservient to the NDC? What is this? How can the House be subservient to the NDC? You want the NDC to endorse it! Tomorrow you would say, NDC should endorse... *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Don't get angry. *...(Interruptions)...*

DR. K. KESHAHA RAO: No, Sir. We are involving you. *...(Interruptions)...* He can't say, because the NDC has not endorsed it. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He is not saying things to please you. He is only saying what he wants to say. *...(Interruptions)...* He does not want to please you. He is only saying what he wants to say. He goes by his brief. Please, continue Mr. Minister. *...(Interruptions)...*

DR. K. KESHAHA RAO: Sir, I want him to respect this House.

...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Don't get angry. Listen to him. *...(Interruptions)...* Listen to this. Dr. Keshava Rao, listen to him. *...(Interruptions)...*

DR. K. KESHAHA RAO: Sir, this has not been done for endorsement by the NDC. *...(Interruptions)...*

DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Sir, he is. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. *...(Interruptions)...*

RAO INDERJIT SINGH: Sir, while deciding how much fund should go to which State, the Fourteenth Finance Commission decided to give revenue deficit grant to States

which were not Special Category States, like Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Kerala. These States were not Special Category States, but they were given revenue deficit grants by the Finance Commission because they thought that the funds that these States were able to collect were not enough for their development. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Sir, that entire money is still owed.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Sit down. It is not about West Bengal.

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Sir, full money has not been given to the State of West Bengal. Sir, ₹ 2,300 crore worth of financial grants are still pending. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Sir, he mentioned West Bengal. ...*(Interruptions)*...

RAO INDERJIT SINGH: Sir, *vis-a-vis* Andhra Pradesh, I would like to say that over and above the 10 per cent increase, as suggested by the Finance Commission, we have also. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU: Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Sir, he is misleading the House. This is not acceptable at all. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Unless you hear him. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Sir, we would not accept this. He is misleading the house. The fact remains that after all, the commitment made by the Prime Minister of India. ...*(Interruptions)*...

RAO INDERJIT SINGH: Sir, over and above, ₹ 22,130 crore have been given by the Finance Commission as a revenue deficit grant for the period 2015-2020 to Andhra Pradesh ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, please. Just one minute. ...*(Interruptions)*... Unless you listen to him. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, he is not responding to our queries. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir, all the concessions given by the UPA Government have been withdrawn by the NDA Government. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: First you must listen to him. Before listening to him, how can you say this? *...(Interruptions)...* If all of you speak, how can he reply? *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir, all those concessions that were given by the UPA Government have been withdrawn by the NDA Government. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please continue speaking, Mr. Minister. *...(Interruptions)...* You may continue. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Sir, he is misleading the House. *...(Interruptions)...*

(At this stage some hon. Members left the Chamber)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can continue. *...(Interruptions)...*

RAO INDERJIT SINGH: There is a saying that you are not supposed to look a gift horse in the mouth. *...(Interruptions)...*

DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is not going on record. *...(Interruptions)...*

RAO INDERJIT SINGH: The States have got 10 per cent extra devolution by virtue of the Fourteenth Finance Commission which comes to an increase of ₹1.78 lakh crore per year. *...(Interruptions)...* States have been given this extra percentage. But instead of imposing fiscal discipline in their respective States, they have gone ahead and began to ask from the Centre." Can you please give us more out of your kitty?" *...(Interruptions)...* The Centre has already given 10 per cent extra over the previous Planning Commission's time. And since we have given 10 per cent extra, our funds available for development have shrunk. *...(Interruptions)...* So, instead of criticizing this Government for not giving them Special Category Status, I would suggest that they should go to their respective States and ensure that States use fiscal discipline and develop their States by virtue of this extra ₹ 1.78 lakh crore. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is not going on record. *...(Interruptions)...* Only what the Minister is saying is going on record. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Sir, we are walking out. *...(Interruptions)...*

(At this stage some hon. Members left the Chamber)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Listen to him. ...*(Interruptions)*... Listen to the reply and then say. ...*(Interruptions)*... Without listening to the reply, you are walking out. ...*(Interruptions)*... I don't know why. ...*(Interruptions)*...

RAO INDERJIT SINGH: At present, Sir, there is no proposal for any Special Category Status to be granted to any State.

DR. K. KESHA RAO: My protest is only this. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You should listen to the reply and then react. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K. KESHA RAO: The Government has been elected and it has every right to take a decision, though we might have our own point of view. When the Minister says that whatever decision we have taken in Parliament, but we did not take endorsement from NDC, it is something which I firmly object to, and I submit to you that it is not the way you should do. ...*(Interruptions)*... Whatever we have decided in the House, the House's decision should go and it does not require the endorsement from the NDC. That is my protest. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Government has its own view and you have your own. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K. KESHA RAO: Sir, I am asking your view on this. If the Government passes a resolution or the Parliament expresses its view unanimously, and he says that he has not taken endorsement and it should get an endorsement from the NDC, Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, give some ruling to my point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*...

REFERENCE - *Contd.*

Re. Taking up the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2017

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I reserve my ruling. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, I will take up the Factories (Amendment) Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): Sir, hon. Nitin Gadkariji is here. One of the Bills in the Supplementary List is the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2017.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Is it here? It is not in the List of Business. ...*(Interruptions)*...