

सिन्धुश्री खुल्लर  
Sindhushree Khullar  
सचिव

Secretary

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Government of India  
Planning Commission  
Yojana Bhavan, Parliament Street  
New Delhi-110001

20<sup>th</sup> March, 2013

To,

The Editor,  
The Hindustran Times  
Kasturba Gandhi Marg,  
New Delhi

Sir,

A news item has been published in Hindustan Times dt. March 20, 2013 at page 13, which makes the following statement "*Rejecting his demand, plan panel secretary Sindhushree Khullar told the state government as per existing criteria special status can be granted only to hill states. The backward states can get additional central assistance for sectors facing backwardness but not the special status.*"

I would like to strongly assert that I have not made any such statement, nor has your Correspondent spoken to me in this regard. Such a statement attributed to me by name is not acceptable.


Chief Minister, Bihar met Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission on 18/3/2013. Many development issues, including Bihar Special Plan and Special Status, were discussed. The issues are under consideration.

I request you to publish my clarification prominently in your newspaper immediately.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,

Encl: photocopy of news item

  
(Sindhushree Khullar)

# BIHAR MAY GET FUNDS BUT NOT SPECIAL STATUS

**Chetan Chauhan**

■ [chetan@hindustantimes.com](mailto:chetan@hindustantimes.com)

**NEW DELHI:** Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar's adhikar rally to seek special status may result in more Central funds for the state but not the coveted special status. The Planning Commission is not agreeable to Nitish's idea as it fears that other states would follow suit and it would result in huge burden on Centre's meager resources.

Not just opposition states but even Congress ruled states like Rajasthan have demanded special status. State chief minister Ashok Gehlot has already sought special status from PM Manmohan Singh citing social and educational backwardness of the state.

Rejecting his demand, plan panel secretary Sindhushree Khullar told the state government as per existing criteria special status can be granted only to hill states. The backward states can get additional central assistance for sectors facing backwardness but not the special status. The reason was simple. The special category states have to provide only 10% of matching grant to utilise central funds.