

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3688
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2000
ECONOMICALLY BACKWARD DISTRICT
RAMSHETH THAKUR;UTTAMRAO NATHUJI DHIKALE

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware that several parts of the country are still Economically backward;
- (b) if so, details of such areas along with the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the measures being taken by the Government for the development of these districts?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE)

(a): Yes, Sir. Although removal of regional disparities has been an inherent part of the planning process, certain areas of the country continue to lag behind in the development process owing to certain historical-geographical factors and differences in resource endowment.

(b) & (c): As planning and development of an area and allocation of funds for the purpose are primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government, Planning Commission has not identified any area as backward per se. However, the Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments in the development of economically backward areas through appropriate weightage in the formula used for distribution of Normal Central Assistance. In addition, in order to address the special problems of designated areas, Special Central Assistance is allocated under Special Area Programmes such as Hill Areas Development Programme, Border Area Development Programme, North Eastern Council and Tribal Sub-Plan. Further, in order to give a fillip to industries in less developed areas various schemes are in operation such as the Growth Centres Scheme, Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme and Transport Subsidy Scheme.