

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:996

ANSWERED ON:10.07.2009

BACKWARD REGIONS GRANT FUND

Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai;Pal Shri Jagdambika;Singh Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad;Singh Shri Brij Bhushan Sharan

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is allocating funds under the Backward Regions Grant Fund to various States including Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the criteria fixed for the selection of districts thereunder;
- (d) the amount so far released to the States and utilized by them during the last three years, State-wise;
- (e) whether the Government has withheld the amount due to be released to certain States because of failure to set up District Planning Commissions (DPCs);
- (f) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (g) the steps taken/ being taken by the Government for disbursement of the grants to those States?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (Dr.C.P. JOSHI)

(a) and (b): Yes Sir. The Government has been allocating funds under the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) to various States. The details of the State-wise allocations under the BRGF are at Annexe-1.

(c): The Backward Regions Grant Fund includes 250 districts in 27 States. The list of 250 districts includes all 200 districts covered by the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP) in 2006-07 and 170 districts identified as backward by the 'Inter-Ministry Task Group (IMTG)' on Redressing Growing Regional Imbalances, constituted by the Planning Commission. The list of 200 districts covered by the NREGP included all the 147 districts covered by the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY) as well as the 150 districts covered by the National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP). The IMTG identified 170 districts as backward on the basis of 17 socio-economic variables, covering the parameters on economic status, health status, educational status, infrastructural inadequacy and parameters portraying overall regional backwardness for capturing low levels of human development.

The programme also covers any new districts that may have been carved out of these 250 districts after 2001 with the proviso that the existing allocation for the parent district will be shared by the new district/ districts.

(d): The details of the funds released and utilized by the States under different components of the BRGF are at Annexe-2.

(e) and (f): Yes, Sir. Formation of District Planning Committees (DPCs) in accordance with Article 243 ZD of the Constitution is an essential pre-requisite for planning and implementation of the development grant component of the BRGF programme in States and areas covered by Part IX and IX A of the Constitution. Participatory plans prepared by each Panchayat and Municipality are to be consolidated into the district plan by the District Planning Committee constituted in accordance with Article 243 ZD of the Constitution. Constitution of DPCs is, therefore essential for the release of developmental grant under the programme.

The Government of India had not released the development grant under the BRGF to the States that could not constitute the DPCs. The States of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Punjab and Uttarakhand could not be released their development grant entitlement in 2008-09 because of non-constitution of the DPCs. As the matter of Panchayat elections is subjudice in Jharkhand and the State could not hold the Panchayat elections, the BRGF guidelines regarding constitution of DPCs were relaxed in case of Jharkhand. The details of the amount withheld from the States due to non-constitution of the DPCs in 2008-09 are at Annexe-3.

(g): The Union Government has constantly persuaded the States concerned for constitution of DPCs in all their districts. This matter has been taken up in the correspondences at the highest levels, meetings and conferences. With the constant follow up of the Union Government, out of the 24 States which are covered by Part IX and IX-A of the Constitution and are required to constitute the DPCs, 21 States have now constituted the DPCs.