

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PLANNING  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:23

ANSWERED ON:24.02.2010

DEVELOPMENT OF BACKWARD DISTRICTS

Jaiswal Shri Gorakh Prasad ;Laguri Shri Yashbant Narayan Singh

**Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:**

- (a) the norms adopted for identification of backward districts in the country and districts identified as per these norms, State-wise;
- (b) the schemes being implemented for development of the districts identified as backward and achievements made as a result thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has undertaken any review in this regard;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the corrective measures taken by the Government thereon?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

(a) to (e) : A Statement is Laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 23 REGARDING DEVELOPMENT OF BACKWARD DISTRICTS BY SHRI YASHBANT N. S. LAGURI AND SHRI GORAKH PRASAD JAISWAL FOR ANSWER ON 24.02.2010.

(a) & (b): Various norms have been adopted for the identification of backward districts under different schemes. However, the specific scheme for the development of backward districts in the country is the District Component of the Backward Regions Grant Fund ( BRGF) under which 250 districts have been identified for coverage. These include the 200 districts covered under the first phase of National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP) and 170 districts identified by the Inter Ministry Task Group on Redressing Growing Regional Imbalances (IMTG) based on 17 socio-economic variables. 120 districts are common in the two lists. The NREGP districts were identified on the basis of an index of backwardness comprising three parameters with equal weights to each namely, value of output per agricultural worker, agriculture wage rate and percentage of SC/ST population of the district. The list of 250 districts under BRGF and the list of 17 parameters used by IMTG are at Annex-I and II respectively.

Other programmes for backward districts are the Special Plan for the 8 KBK districts, which are being allocated funds under the BRGF as well, the Multi-sectoral Development Programme of the Ministry of Minority Affairs for the development of 90 districts identified as backward and the special package for Bundelkhand region, recently approved by the Government. The norms adopted for backwardness by the Multi-sectoral Development Programme of the Ministry of Minority Affairs are at Annex-III.

Through the BRGF, the Central Government provides funds for the 250 identified districts. The District Component of the BRGF, implemented by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has Development Grant and Capacity Building Grant Components. The Development Grant fills critical gaps in the integrated development of the districts through a participative planning process. The Capacity Building component seeks to upgrade the skills of the elected representatives and functionaries of local governments. The BRGF has not only addressed critical development gaps in the district but has also strengthened the planning and implementation process at the village, intermediate and district level through capacity enhancement. The Special Plan for KBK districts has mitigated the problems arising from adverse socio-economic indicators. Similarly, the Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MSDP) through its multipronged approach has begun to show positive results. The statement at Annex-IV shows the position regarding allocation and release of funds under the BRGF, Special Plan for KBK Districts and MSDP.

(c) to (e) : The BRGF programme is being reviewed by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj through intensive interactions, conferences and workshops, field visits and development of information bank as well as through commissioning of independent evaluation studies. A World Bank review of BRGF undertaken at the request of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has, indicated inter-alia, that BRGF investments are meaningful and that local governments implement the schemes with speed and quality. The study also points to the need for advance planning, greater convergence and a strong technical secretariat for the District Planning Committees. The implementation of the KBK Special Plan is being closely reviewed by the Planning Commission along with the State Government to ensure the attainment of the scheme's objectives. Similarly the MSDP performance is being monitored by the Ministry of Minority Affairs. Ministries and State Governments concerned take corrective action on the basis of the review meetings.

