

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2915

ANSWERED ON:15.03.2010

DEVELOPMENT OF BACKWARD REGIONS

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Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of districts in the country identified as backward districts;
- (b) the details of Centrally Sponsored Scheme/Programmes under implementation of the Ministry for the development of the backward regions in the country;
- (c) the norms/ procedures framed regarding the implementation of schemes and utilisation of funds under the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) Programme;
- (d) the details of funds allocated and utilised under BRGF in the country including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal during the last three years and current year, scheme-wise;
- (e) whether cases of misutilisation of funds reported, if so, the details thereof and corrective action taken thereon;
- (f) whether the District Planning Committees have been set up in the country including Gujarat; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof including the role of the District Planning Committee for the implementation of the scheme?

Answer

MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (Dr. C.P. JOSHI)

(a) and (b): The Government has identified 250 districts in 27 States as backward. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) implements the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) Programme in these identified districts since 2006-07. The BRGF Programme is designed to redress regional imbalances in development by providing funds for supplementing and converging existing developmental inflows in the identified districts.

(c): The BRGF implemented by the MoPR comprises the Capacity Building (CB) and Development Grant components. Funds under the CB Component are provided to the States computed at Rs. 1 crore per BRGF District per annum for creation of training infrastructure and conducting training courses for the functionaries of the local bodies. Funds under the Development Grant Component are apportioned among the 250 backward districts as per the following norms:

(a) Rs. 10 crore per annum is provided as the basic minimum allocation.

(b) The balance allocation is distributed by giving equal weight to the population and area of the district in the total population and area of all the 250 backward districts.

The detailed guidelines of the Programme are available in the website of the Ministry, namely, www.panchayat.gov.in.

(d): State-wise details of funds released and utilized under the BRGF are at Annex -1.

(e): Yes Sir. The Ministry has received references from some Members of Parliament and members of general public regarding misutilisation of BRGF funds. The Ministry has taken up the matters with the State Government concerned.

(f) and (g): The Parts IX and IX-A of the Constitution, which mandate constitution of the District Planning Committees (DPCs), are applicable to 24 States in the country. So far, 22 States have constituted the DPCs, which includes Gujarat. The list is at Annex-2.

The participatory plans prepared by the Panchayats and Municipalities in a district are consolidated into Draft District Plans by the DPCs.