

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PLANNING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:253

ANSWERED ON:23.02.2011

BACKWARD DISTRICTS

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

- (a) whether the number of backward districts in the country are on the increase in recent years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise during the last three years;
- (c) the reasons therefor;
- (d) the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (e) whether the Government has conducted any survey with regard to the extent of backwardness in backward areas of the country;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the parameters evolved by the Government to remove backwardness of the said areas?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES (DR. ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) to (g): Various norms have been adopted for the identification of backward districts under different schemes. 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 17 parameters used by IMTG is at Annex-I. No separate survey has been conducted by the Planning Commission. Based upon the above criteria, the number of backward districts has not changed.

Government has recently approved an Integrated Action Plan (IAP) for 60 Selected Tribal and Backward Districts of nine States, 59 of which are included in the BRGF. The criteria adopted for selection of these 60 districts are: (i) the district is in the list of 83 Security Related Expenditure (SRE) scheme of the Ministry of Home Affairs, (ii) the tribal population of the district exceeds 25%, (iii) the forest area of the district exceeds 30%, (iv) poverty ratio in the district exceeds 50% and (v) the district is covered under the District Component of the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF). Districts meeting four out of the five criteria and forming a contiguous block have been included. Further, those districts that were in the list of 35 Left Wing Extremism (LWE) Affected Districts, but do not meet the above criteria, have also been included.

For the implementation of the Multi-sectoral Development Programme, the Ministry of Minority Affairs has identified 90 districts as backward. The norms adopted for backwardness by the Ministry of Minority Affairs are at Annex-II.

Annex-I

17 Parameters used by the Inter-Ministry Task Group for Redressing Growing Regional Imbalances for identification of backward districts.

1. Economic

(i) Per Capita Credit

(ii) Per Capita Deposits

(iii) % of Agriculture Labourers

(iv) Agriculture Wages

(v) Output per Agricultural Worker

## 2. Social and Educational

(i) % of SC Population

(ii) % of ST Population

(iii) Female Literacy Rate

(iv) Ratio of Secondary Schools to Population of Specific Age Group

(v) Gross Enrolment Ratio Class I-VIII (Age 6-13years)

## 3. Health:

(i) Crude Death Rate

(ii) Infant Mortality Rate

(iii) Institutional Delivery

(iv) Full Immunisation

## 4. Amenities:

(i) % of Households without Electricity

(ii) % of Households with Bank Services

(iii) % of Households with Drinking Water Source greater than 500 metres away.

## Annex- II

The Norms adopted for backwardness by the Multi-sectoral Development Programme of Ministry of Minority Affairs

Criteria for religion specific socio-economic indicators at the district level:-

Literacy level

Female literacy rate

Work participation rate and

Female work participation rate

Basic amenities indicators at the district level:-

Percentage of households with pucca walls

Percentage of households with safe drinking water

Percentage of households with electricity; and

Percentage of households with water closet latrines