

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:262
ANSWERED ON:23.02.2011
ECONOMIC PACKAGES FOR BACKWARDNESS
Singh Shri Rakesh

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a provision for special economic package for wiping out backwardness and for providing relief due to losses caused by natural calamities;
- (b) if so, the details of the norms in this regard;
- (c) whether any proposal for providing such packages for Mahakoushal region of Madhya Pradesh is pending with the Union Government; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which a decision in the the matter is likely to be taken?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF) scheme is under implementation for development in 250 backward districts in the country. A new Scheme, Integrated Action Plan (IAP) for tribal & backward districts, has been recently launched in 60 districts. Assistance is also provided for Special Plan for Bihar, Special KBK Plan and Bundelkhand Drought Mitigation Package. Besides, there are many Centrally Sponsored Schemes funded by Government of India such as Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, National Rural Health Mission, Indira Awas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana, which provide for a higher level of assistance for more backward areas.

National Policy on Disaster Management brought out by the Government of India in 2009 provides a detailed roadmap and institutional structure for immediate relief and rehabilitation of people, villages and damaged infrastructure due to natural calamity as per norms set out by Government of India. There is a provision for the on-the-spot assessment of areas affected by natural calamity by the Inter-Ministerial Central Team. There are two funds created at the State and Central levels. The erstwhile Calamity Relief Fund has been converted into State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), where the Centre contributes 75% of the fund and the balance is contributed by the respective States. For North East States and other special category states, the central share to this is 90% Fund. The erstwhile National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) has now been converted to National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF). Guidelines covering such relief are issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The last revision of norms was made in July 2009.

(c) & (d): A proposal for a special package of Rs 19,303 crore for the Mahakaushal region was received from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh in July 2010. After examination of the proposal, Planning Commission has not agreed to support the proposal. The State Government has been apprised of the decision in December 2010.