

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:438

ANSWERED ON:23.02.2011

NORMS FOR IDENTIFICATION OF BACKWARD/TRIBAL PRONE DISTRICTS

Hazari Shri Maheshwar ;Mahendrasinh Shri Chauhan ;Rathwa Shri Ramsinhbhai Patalbhai;Singh Rajkumari Ratna

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

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

Answer

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

(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 including 6 districts in Gujarat have been identified for coverage as given in Annex-I. 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-II.

In addition, the Government has recently approved, an Integrated Action Plan (IAP) for 60 Selected Tribal and Backward Districts of nine States. 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.

Other programmes for backward districts are the Special Plan for the eight KBK districts, which are being allocated funds under the District Component of 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.

There are two major programmes for Tribal Development namely, Grant under Article 275(1) of the Constitution and Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan (SCA to TSP). Grant under both the programmes is released to 26 States and 22 TSP States respectively including the State of Gujarat. Areas included in Tribal Sub-Plan are the operational areas of Integrated Tribal Development Projects / Agencies (ITDPs/ITDAs), Modified Area Development Approach (MADA) pockets, Clusters and areas where Dispersed Tribal Groups (DTGs) and Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PTGs) reside. ITDPs /ITDAs are generally contiguous areas of the size of a Tehsil or Block or more in which the ST population is 50% or more of the total population. MADA Pockets are the identified pockets of concentration of ST population containing 50% or more ST population within a total population of minimum of 10,000. Clusters are the identified pockets of concentration of ST population containing 50% or more ST population within a total population of minimum of 5,000. PTGs are identified as the most backward communities among the STs characterized by low rate of growth of population, a pre-agricultural level of technology and extremely low levels of literacy. DTGs are tribals falling outside the above areas.

(c) to (e): The BRGF programme is being reviewed by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj through intensive interactions, conferences and workshops, field visits and 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 reviewed by the Planning Commission along with the State Government to ensure the attainment of the scheme's objectives. Similarly the performance of MSDP is reviewed by the Ministry of Minority Affairs and performance of the programmes for Tribal Development by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Ministries and State Governments concerned take corrective action on the basis of the reviews.

Development Commissioner / equivalent officer in-charge of Development in the State is responsible for scrutiny of expenditure and monitoring of the IAP. Macro-level monitoring of the IAP is being carried out by the Committee headed by Member Secretary, Planning Commission.