

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1596

ANSWERED ON:30.11.2011

SCHEMES FOR BACKWARD BLOCKS

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the experts group have suggested that the Government's development efforts should focus on blocks that lag behind the rest of the country in terms of socio-economic indicators as reported in the media;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has prepared schemes to target such backward blocks;
- (c) if so, the details of the schemes prepared by the Government in this regard; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to target social schemes accurately and ensure better access to target groups as part of their efforts to reduce poverty?

Answer

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

- (a) to (c): The Working Group on Panchayati Raj and Rural Governance for the Twelfth Five Year Plan has recommended that the block should be the basic unit for identifying backwardness for Backward Regions Grant Fund(BRGF)(District Component) in order to ensure fund flow to most backward areas. The recommendations made by the Working Group are being scrutinized by the Steering Committee on Rural Livelihood and Rural Governance for the Twelfth Five Year Plan.
- (d): In order to ensure that the benefits under various social schemes reach the target groups, the Panchayati Raj Institutions(PRIs) are being strengthened to improve the delivery mechanism besides bringing in transparency and strict monitoring of the implementation of various schemes at different levels.