

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1537
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2011
SCHEMES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF BACKWARD AREAS
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Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) the schemes being implemented for the development of backward areas in the country;
- (b) the salient features of the said schemes alongwith the funds allocated for the schemes during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) the areas which were developed under the said schemes during the above period;
- (d) whether the schemes meant for the backward areas have not yielded the intended results; and
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor and the corrective measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a): The planning and development of an area is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. The Central Government, on its part, supplements the efforts of the State Governments through various Special Area Programmes, Flagship Programmes and Centrally Sponsored Schemes. The specific scheme to remove the regional imbalance in development in the country is the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) which was launched in 2006-07 to fill the critical gaps in development in the identified 250 backward districts.

(b) & (c): Currently, the BRGF has two components viz (i) District Component covering 250 districts in 27 States, and (ii) State Component which includes Special Plan for Bihar, Special Plan for the KBK Districts of Orissa, Bundelkhand Package and the Integrated Action Plan for 60 Selected Tribal and Backward Districts. Briefs on each of these programmes indicating the salient features, allocations made in the last three years and the current year and the list of districts covered are at Annexure-I to V.

(d) & (e): The programmes for backward areas are continuously reviewed both at the Central and State levels. The feed back received is used to fine tune the processes involved so that the effectiveness of these programmes improves. 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 closely reviewed by the Planning Commission along with the State Government to ensure the attainment of the scheme's objectives.

A Quick Evaluation Study of the Special Plan for the KBK districts of Orissa was conducted through the Programme Evaluation Organisation, Planning commission in July, 2009. It, inter-alia, showed that the efforts made through the Special Plan were largely responsible for the improvement in the quality of life of the people of the region; increase in enrolment rates and decrease in drop out rates; and increase in incomes wherever livelihood and watershed interventions had been made.