

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1189
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2012
SEPARATE PACKAGES TO DESERT REGIONS
Choudhary Shri Harish

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to provide any separate packages to desert regions in the country on the lines of North-Eastern States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

- (a) : No, Sir. There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to provide separate packages to desert regions in the country.
- (b) : Does not arise.
- (c) : 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 backward districts. 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, Special Plan for West Bengal, Bundelkhand Package and the Integrated Action Plan for 78 Selected Tribal and Backward Districts.