

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2525
ANSWERED ON:28.03.2012
PROJECTS FOR BACKWARD AND RURAL AREAS
Chavan Shri Harischandra Deoram

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of projects for backward and rural regions which are pending with the Union Government as on date;
- (b) the time since when the said projects have been pending;
- (c) the reasons for the said projects not being approved alongwith the time by which they are likely to be approved;
- (d) whether the State Governments have sought expeditious approval of the said projects from the Union Government;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the action 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 for backward regions 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 Odisha, Special Plan for West Bengal, Bundelkhand Package and the Integrated Action Plan for 78 Selected Tribal and Backward Districts. Funds under the District component of BRGF are released as per the programme guidelines. Funds under the Special Plans / package are released based on the projects approved by the Empowered Committee and performance of the projects / annual action plans.

The major schemes for rural areas include Mahatama Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) and Indira Awas Yojana (IAY). Funds under these schemes are released as per scheme specific guidelines. No projects for backward and rural areas are pending with the Planning Commission for approval.

(b) to (f): Do not arise.