

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4308

ANSWERED ON:02.05.2012

REGIONAL IMBALANCE

Singh Shri Rajiv Ranjan (Lalan);Vardhan Shri Harsh

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is Intra-State and regional imbalance in the development of States;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has assessed the pace of development in the areas far away from the capitals of various States and Metropolitan cities;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government proposes to include a separate scheme in the Twelfth Five Year Plan for the development of such remote areas and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) : The levels of development vary from one State to another State as well as from one region to another within the State due to sub-continental dimensions of India, with inherent differences in geographical parameters and historical developments owing to differences in resource endowment, levels of infrastructure and socio-economic parameters.

(b) : The planning and development of an area is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned. 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 was the Backward Regions Grant Fund(BRGF) which was launched in 2006-07 and was approved for implementation during the Eleventh five Year Plan to fill the critical gaps in development in the identified backward districts / regions.

(c): No such specific assessment has been made in this regard. However, the District Component of BRGF covered 250 backward districts which included all the 200 districts covered by the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act(NREGA) in its first phase 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 districts and 170 districts identified by the IMTG as backward on the basis of 17 socio-economic variables, 120 districts being common to both.

(d): Does not arise.

(e): In view of the various Flagship programmes and the Backward Regions Grant fund(BRGF) already in operation, there is no proposal to introduce any separate scheme for the development of backward regions in the Twelfth Five Year Plan.