

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PLANNING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5419

ANSWERED ON:09.05.2012

BACKWARD DISTRICTS

Dubey Shri Nishikant ;Laguri Shri Yashbant Narayan Singh;Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai;Tudu Shri Laxman

**Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:**

- (a) the norms adopted for identification of backward districts in the country and the districts identified as per the norms, State-wise;
- (b) the schemes being implemented for development of the districts identified as backward districts and the achievements made as a result thereof;
- (c) whether any review of the schemes implemented in these districts has been made by the Government; and;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a)&(b): Various norms have been adopted for the identification of backward districts under different schemes. However, the specific scheme for the development of backward districts in the country is the District Component of the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) under which 250 districts have been identified for coverage. These include the 200 districts covered under the first phase of National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP) and 170 districts identified by the Inter Ministry Task Group on Redressing Growing Regional Imbalances (IMTG) based on 17 socio-economic variables. 120 districts are common in the two lists. The NREGP districts were 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 district. The list of 250 districts under BRGF and the list of 17 parameters used by IMTG are at Annex-I and II respectively.

Other programmes for backward districts are the Special Plan for the eight KBK districts, which are being allocated funds under the District Component of BRGF as well, the Special Plan for West Bengal, the Multi-sectoral Development Programme of the Ministry of Minority Affairs for the development of 90 districts identified as backward and the special package for Bundelkhand region, recently approved by the Government. The norms adopted for backwardness by the Multi-sectoral Development Programme of the Ministry of Minority Affairs are at Annex-III.

There are two major programmes for Tribal Development namely, Grant under Article 275(1) of the Constitution and Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan (SCA to TSP). Grant under both the programmes is released to 26 States and 22 TSP States respectively. Areas included in Tribal Sub-Plan are the operational areas of Integrated Tribal Development Projects / Agencies (ITDPs/ITDAs), Modified Area Development Approach (MADA) pockets, Clusters and areas where Dispersed Tribal Groups (DTGs) and Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PTGs) reside. ITDPs /ITDAs are generally contiguous areas of the size of a Tehsil or Block or more in which the ST population is 50% or more of the total population. MADA Pockets are the identified pockets of concentration of ST population containing 50% or more ST population within a total population of minimum of 10,000. Clusters are the identified pockets of concentration of ST population containing 50% or more ST population within a total population of minimum of 5,000. PTGs are identified as the most backward communities among the STs characterized by low rate of growth of population, a pre-agricultural level of technology and extremely low levels of literacy. DTGs are tribals falling outside the above areas.

(c) & (d): The BRGF programme is being reviewed by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj through intensive interactions, conferences and workshops, field visits and development of information bank as well as through commissioning of independent evaluation studies. 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. Similarly the performance of MSDP is reviewed by the Ministry of Minority Affairs. Ministries and State Governments concerned take corrective action on the basis of the reviews.