

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3923
ANSWERED ON:05.09.2012
SURVEY ON BACKWARDNESS OF DISTRICTS
Sukur Shri Jadhav Baliram

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any survey regarding the backwardness of the backward areas in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the steps taken/being taken for the development of backward areas?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Planning Commission has not conducted any survey regarding the backwardness of the backward areas in the country.

(c): Although the planning and development of an area is primarily the responsibility of the State 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. In order to specifically address the problem of regional imbalances in the country, the Government initiated the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) in 2006-07. The BRGF has two components, namely, (i) the State Component which, in its present form, includes the Special Plan for Bihar, Special Plan for the Kalahandi-Bolangir-Koraput (KBK) districts of Odisha, Special Plan for West Bengal, Integrated Action Plan(IAP) for Selected Tribal and Backward Districts and the Special Package to implement drought mitigation strategies in Bundelkhand region, and (ii) the District Component initially covering 250 backward districts in 27 States which included the 200 districts covered under the first phase of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) and 170 districts identified by the Inter Ministry Task Group on Redressing Growing Regional Imbalances (IMTG) based on 17 socio-economic variables. 120 districts were common in the two lists. The NREGA 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 number of districts covered under the District component of BRGF has been raised to 272 districts in June, 2012 largely due to carving out of the existing BRGF districts between 2001 Census and 2011 Census. The BRGF is being continued in its present form in 2012-13 and the allocation under BRGF has been increased from Rs.7300 crore in 2010-11 to Rs.12040 crore in 2012-13.