

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3948
ANSWERED ON:05.09.2012
SCHEMES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF VIDARBHA REGION
Sainuji Shri Kowase Marotrao

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has taken or proposes to take any steps to formulate any action plan for the overall development of the Vidarbha region of the State of Maharashtra and declaring it a backward region;
- (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) & (b) : Yes sir. Though overall development of all regions of the State is primarily the responsibility of the State Government, however, the Central Government supplements in their efforts through implementing various Special Area Programmes and Centrally Sponsored Schemes. Some of the main ones are Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), Mid- Day Meal Scheme (MDM), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), National Horticulture Mission (NHM), National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), Prime Minister's Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY), Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Total Sanitation Programme (TSP) and Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF). As such, the Government of India has no proposal to declare Vidarbha a backward region.

(c): The Government of India initiated BRGF in 2006-07 to redress regional imbalance in development and to provide funds for supplementing and converging existing developmental inflows into the identified districts to bridge critical gaps in local infrastructure and other developmental requirements that were not being adequately met through existing inflows. The District Component of BRGF covers 12 districts of Maharashtra which includes six districts of Vidarbha region, namely, Amravati, Bhandara, Chandrapur, Gadchiroli, Gondia and Yavatmal. All the districts were allocated funds under the programme during the 11th Five Year Plan period. The BRGF is continuing in 2012-13 in its present form and these districts will be allocated funds in 2012-13 as per the existing criteria.

In addition to above, a Rehabilitation Package of Rs. 3873.26 crore was announced on 1st July, 2006 by the Prime Minister for the Vidarbha Region of Maharashtra. The package was under implementation and Rs. 4425.87 crore were released upto September, 2011 by the Central and State Governments and NABARD/Banks. To promote the protective irrigation in Vidarbha, Rs. 300 crore has been allocated during 2012-13 under Vidarbha Intensive Irrigation Development Project to cover all 11 Vidarbha districts.

Moreover, in order to address the issues of equitable distribution of Plan funds and regional disparities, three Statutory Development Boards have been constituted on 1st May, 1994 under Article 371(2) of the Constitution of India and one of which is Statutory Development Board for Vidarbha. The Board articulates the issues and suggests strategies for their removal in a time bound manner through systematic follow-up actions.