

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:13
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2012
REGIONAL IMBALANCE
Dhurve Jyoti;Naranbhai Shri Kachhadia

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is considering that development of infrastructure and connectivity is the most important method to remove regional imbalance in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has prepared certain specific programmes to alleviate poverty in the country particularly in Odisha and Jharkhand while focusing on the development of infrastructure and connectivity; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Regional imbalances result from varying factors such as differences in resource endowment, geographical and historical characteristics and availability of infrastructure including connectivity. The planning and development of an area is primarily the responsibility of the States concerned. The Central Government, on its part, supplements the efforts of the State Governments through various Special Area Development Programmes, Flagship Programmes and Centrally Sponsored Schemes which cover development of infrastructure and connectivity also.

(c) & (d): Various schemes focusing on poverty alleviation and also on infrastructure and connectivity are in operation in the States including Odisha and Jharkhand. The major development programmes / schemes in operation in the country are : (i) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act(MGNREGA), (ii) Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana(PMGSY), (iii) Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana(SGSY), (iv) National Rural Health Mission(NRHM), (v) Integrated Child Development Service(ICDS), (vi) Total Sanitation Campaign(TSC), (vii) Mid Day Meal(MDM), (viii) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan(SSA), (ix) Indira Awas Yojana(IAY), (x) Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission(JNNURM), (xi) Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme(AIBP), (xii) Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana(RGGVY), (xiii) Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission(RGDWM), (xiv) Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme(APDRP), and (xv) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana(RKVY).

The specific scheme to remove the regional imbalance is the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF). The BRGF has two components, namely, (i) District Component covering 272 backward districts in 27 States (including 22 districts approved for coverage in June, 2012), and (ii) 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. 20 districts of Odisha and 23 districts of Jharkhand are covered under the District Component of BRGF. Under Integrated Action Plan(IAP) for Selected Tribal and Backward Districts, 18 districts of Odisha and 17 districts of Jharkhand are covered.