

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2383
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2013
MONITORING OF FUNDS UNDER BRGF
Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government monitors the utilisation of funds by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations under Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any shortcomings have been reported in the utilisation of funds under BRGF; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the appropriate action taken or proposed by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA DEO)

(a) & (b): The Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) Programme of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) is being implemented in all the States of the country except Goa. The Union Territories are not covered under the BRGF Programme. The utilization of BRGF funds is monitored by MoPR through various documents viz. periodical Physical & Financial Progress Reports, Utilization Certificates, Audit Reports of Statutory Auditors etc. submitted by the State Governments. BRGF funds are released in two instalments during a financial year and the essential condition for release of each instalment is 60% utilization of the earlier releases and furnishing of the aforesaid documents by the State Governments. The BRGF Guidelines also provide for audit of works through a Review Committee at District Level and Social Audit and Vigilance at the Panchayat levels.

(c) & (d): BRGF is a process oriented and demand driven programme implemented by the Panchayati Raj Institutions and urban local bodies. Non-receipt of proposals in time and non-submission of prescribed documents by the State Governments are the main reasons for which some State Governments are unable to claim their full entitlements. To ensure utilisation of budgetary allocation, MoPR regularly follows up with the State Governments for early submission of District Plans along with the requisite documents for timely release of entitlements. Review meetings and video conferences with the State / District level officials and visits by the officials of the Ministry to the States are some of the other measures for ensuring timely utilisation of funds. To facilitate that the funds get transferred to the State Governments the sanctions are also uploaded on the website of the Ministry.