

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4156
ANSWERED ON:19.02.2014
FUNDS TO BACKWARD DISTRICTS
Rama Devi Smt. ,Singh Rajkumari Ratna

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the agencies through which the Government has released funds allocated for the development of the backward districts, State-wise;
- (b) whether the procedure adopted by the Planning Commission in this regard is not conducive for the development of the backward districts; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA)

(a) to (c): There are two schemes being implemented which specifically aim to supplement the efforts of the State Governments to develop the backward districts. The first scheme viz. "District Component of Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF)", which was initiated in 2006-07, presently covers 272 districts of 27 States. This scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

The second scheme viz. "Additional Central Assistance for Left Wing Extremism Affected Districts", which has replaced the "Integrated Action Plan (IAP) for Selected Tribal and Backward Districts", initiated in 2010-11, now covers 88 districts of nine States including 82 districts covered under the IAP. This scheme is being implemented by the Planning Commission.

As per the guidelines of both the schemes, funds are being released to the Consolidated Fund of the States for onward transfer to the implementing agencies / district authorities. This procedure of releases to the States enables them to keep an account of the transfers from the Central Government and to monitor the progress under the schemes.

In the case of the District Component of Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF), plans are to be prepared by the Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies and consolidated by the District Planning Committees. In the case of Additional Central Assistance for Left Wing Extremism Affected Districts /IAP, a Committee headed by District Collector / District Magistrate and consisting of the Superintendent of Police of the District and the District Forest Officer is responsible for implementation.

The District-level Committee has the flexibility to spend the amount for development schemes according to need in consultation with the Local Members of Parliament and other elected representatives. There is no proposal to change the procedure for release of funds under these two schemes.