

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4625

ANSWERED ON:21.02.2014

BRGF PROGRAMME

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Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the target of development of backward districts under the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) Programme has been achieved in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/ UT-wise and if not, the reasons therefor along with the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the name of the backward districts and the modus operandi of the programme including consultation with the local MP, adopted regarding development of such districts in the country;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to provide additional funds for development of such backward districts in the country;
- (e) if so, the details thereof, State/ UT-wise and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the other corrective steps taken/ being taken by the Government in this direction?

Answer

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

(a), (b), (d) & (e) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj's (MoPR) allocation for the District component of Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) Programme for this year (2013-14) was Rs.6500 crore (Budget Estimate) which was reduced to Rs.2800 crore at Revised Estimate stage. The release of funds to the States during this year is shown at Annex-I.

(c) The names of the districts covered under the BRGF Programme are shown at Annex-II. The BRGF Programme is designed to redress regional imbalances in development. It provides financial resources for supplementing and converging existing developmental inflows into identified districts with a view to bridge critical gaps in local infrastructure and other development requirements. The Development Grants under the BRGF are untied in nature and are basically utilised in implementing works/activities included in the Action Plan prepared by the Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies in a participatory and decentralized mode. These are further consolidated into the District Plan and approved by the District Planning Committee (DPC), constituted in accordance with Article 243 ZD of the Constitution. While claiming funds under BRGF, the States are required to furnish the said District Annual Action Plans alongwith Utilisation Certificates, Physical and Financial Progress Reports, Audit Reports etc. against the funds received earlier. BRGF funds are required to be transferred to the Implementing Entities (IEs) within 15 days of the release of funds to the Consolidated Fund of the States failing which penal interest is required to be paid by the State Governments to the IEs. As per the progress reports received in MoPR, these funds have been utilised for developmental activities like construction of anganwadi centres, panchayat ghars, roads, culverts, bridges, community halls, water supply etc.

(f) : Planning Commission has increased the allocation under the District component of the BRGF Programme for the next year (2014-15) to Rs.5900.00 crore from the current year allocation of Rs. 2800.00 crore (RE 2013-14).