

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4653
ANSWERED ON:21.02.2014
CONVERSION OF SMALL SCHEMES
Rawat Shri Ashok Kumar

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the expenditure on Panchayati Raj Schemes is being re-appropriated by converting small schemes into major schemes and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether most of the funds earmarked for the backward areas have not been spent for the last several years and if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any targets have been fixed for expenditure to be incurred in the districts under these schemes and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the measures taken by the Government to ensure the utilisation of the allocated funds for Panchayati Raj Schemes?

Answer

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

- (a) During the current year (2013-14), Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) has not re-appropriated funds for expenditure by converting small schemes into major schemes.
- (b) During the Eleventh Five Year Plan Period (2007-08 to 2011-12), under the District component of the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) Programme, the actual expenditure was Rs.21623.46 crore against the Revised Estimate (RE) allocation of Rs.21627.00 crore i.e. 99.98%. During the first year of the Twelfth Five Year Plan i.e. 2012-13, fund releases was Rs.3720.19 crore against the RE allocation of Rs.3734.00 crore i.e. 99.63%.
- (c) The allocation for the Twelfth Five Year Plan Period (2012-13 to 2016-17) for BRGF Programme stands at Rs.29306.00 crore.
- (d) Utilisation of funds under the BRGF Programme is a continuous process which is carried on throughout the year. BRGF funds are released in two instalments during a financial year and the essential condition for release of each instalment is 60% utilisation of the earlier releases. In this way, the districts have a steady flow of funds to undertake developmental activities and at the same time, excess funds are not released. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has taken several steps for optimum utilisation of BRGF funds like time lines have been set for preparation and submission of the District Plans; 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 and as a follow up measure regular review meetings, workshops, video conferences are held with the State Governments.