

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2248

ANSWERED ON:18.12.2013

DEVELOPMENT OF BACKWARD REGIONS

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Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) the parameters used by the Government to identify backward regions in the country and the districts identified as per norms, State-wise;
- (b) the efforts made/programmes implemented for the balanced development of these regions including the funds allocated/utilised for the purpose, State-wise and the achievements made as a result thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to formulate new schemes for infrastructure development of backward regions and tribal areas in the country including in Uttarakhand; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof including the funds likely to be allocated for the purpose?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): In addition to the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Schemes/Flagship programmes, the specific scheme for the development of backward districts in the country is the District Component of the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF), initiated in 2006-07, with the main objective to supplement the efforts of the State Governments for bridging critical gaps in local infrastructure in the identified districts. Under this scheme, 250 districts had been identified for coverage. The list of 250 districts included the 200 districts covered under the first phase of National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP) and 170 districts identified by the Inter Ministry Task Group on Redressing Growing Regional Imbalances (IMTG) based on 17 socio-economic variables. 120 districts were common in these two lists. The list of 17 parameters used by IMTG is at Annex-I. The NREGP districts were identified on the basis of an index of backwardness based on three parameters with equal weights to each namely, value of output per agricultural worker, agriculture wage rate and percentage of SC/ST population of the district. The coverage under the District component of BRGF was enhanced to 272 districts from 2012-13, largely due to carving out of the original districts. The list of 272 districts is at Annex-II.

Apart from the District Component of BRGF, Special Plans for Bihar, Special Plan for the KBK districts of Odisha and Special Plan for West Bengal are also being implemented under the State Component of BRGF. Further, it has been decided in the current year to continue assistance to 82 districts covered under the Integrated Action Plan (IAP) for Selected Tribal and Backward Districts, implemented during the period 2010-11 to 2012-13, and six additional districts (totaling 88 districts) through the scheme "Additional Central Assistance for Left Wing Extremism Affected Districts" .

A statement showing the allocations and releases made to the State Governments under the District Component of BRGF and the State Component of BRGF comprising the Special Plans for Bihar, KBK districts of Odisha and West Bengal, and Integrated Action Plan for Selected Tribal and Backward Districts is at Annex-III.

The District Component of BRGF is being monitored by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and the progress of projects taken up under the State Component is being monitored by the Planning Commission. Under IAP, the progress is available on the MIS <http://pcserver.nic.in/iapmis> which shows that against 103901 works taken up, 86566 works have been completed as on date.

(c) & (d): There is no proposal at present to formulate any new scheme for infrastructure development of backward regions and tribal areas in the country including Uttarakhand.