

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:921
ANSWERED ON:10.07.2009
SURVEY ON BACKWARD REGION
Agarwal Shri Jai Prakash

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has conducted any survey regarding backwardness of the backward areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the steps taken/being taken for the development of backward regions?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (Dr.C.P.JOSHI)

(a) to (c): No Sir.The Union Government has not conducted any survey regarding the backwardness of the backward areas of the country. However, the Planning Commission had set up an Inter-Ministry Task Group (IMTG) on Redressing Growing Regional Imbalances, in August 2004 for addressing the growing regional imbalances. The IMTG submitted its report in January 2005. The Task Group identified 170 districts as backward based on 17 socio economic variables, covering the parameters on economic status,health status, educational status, infrastructural inadequacy and parameters portraying overall regional backwardness for capturing low levels of human development.These 170 districts and all the remaining districts covered by the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP) in 2006-07,comprised the 250 districts which were identified for implementation of the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) Programme.

The Backward Regions Grant Fund Programme (BRGF) was approved in the financial year 2006-07. The district component of the BRGF has three sub components, namely, the development grant, the capacity building grant and the pending entitlements of districts under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY). The BRGF provides for untied grants which can be used to meet gaps in human development,infrastructural development and development in the productive sector and the capacity building grant for training and capacity development of the representatives of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and the official functionaries. The Panchayats and the Municipalities are the planning and implementation authorities under the BRGF so that the goals and outcomes reflect the perceived and the felt needs of the people. Since 2006-07, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has sanctioned Rs. 9526.34 crore to the States under the district component of the BRGF.