

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PANCHAYATI RAJ  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3172

ANSWERED ON:11.12.2014

DISTRICTS UNDER BRGF PROGRAMME

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**Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:**

- (a) the State-wise details of districts identified for development under Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) programme in the country along with the criteria for inclusion of various districts under the programme;
- (b) whether the Union Government has received proposals from the various State Governments including Chhattisgarh for inclusion of districts under BRGF programme;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the details of districts likely to be included;
- (d) whether there is a proposal for restructuring of the said programme and if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Union Government is planning to charge penal interest on States for under- utilisation of funds and if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether States are required to furnish district plans utilisation certificates, audit reports for these grants and if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the measures taken by the Government for optimum utilisation of Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan and BRGF funds?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI NIHAL CHAND)

- (a): The State-wise details of 272 districts identified in the country under the District Component of Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) Programme are at Annex. The criteria adopted for inclusion of districts under BRGF Programme include economic (per capita credit & deposits, percentage of agriculture labourers, agriculture wages and output per agricultural worker); social and educational (percentage of SC and ST population, female literacy rate, ratio of secondary schools to population of specific age group and gross enrolment ratio class I-VIII - age 6-13 years); health (crude death rate, infant mortality rate, institutional delivery and full immunization); and amenities (percentage of households without electricity, with bank services and drinking water source greater than 500 meters away).
- (b) : Yes, Madam.
- (c) & (d) : As per the Finance Ministers Budget speech for the year 2014-15 restructuring of the BRGF Programme seeks to address intra-district inequalities to ensure that backward sub-district units within the States receive adequate financial support.
- (e) : No, Madam.
- (f) : While claiming funds under BRGF, the States are required to furnish the District Annual Action Plans duly approved by the District Planning Committees (DPCs) alongwith Utilisation Certificates, Audit Reports and other prescribed documents for the funds received earlier.
- (g) : To ensure optimum utilisation of funds under Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan and BRGF, Ministry of Panchayati Raj regularly follows up with the State Governments for early submission of Annual Plans along with the requisite documents. Review meetings and video conferences with the State/ District level officials and visits by the officials of the Ministry to the States are some other measures being taken for ensuring optimum utilisation of funds.