

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2214
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2014
BALANCED DEVELOPMENT OF ALL REGIONS
Neta Shri Ashok Mahadeorao

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken or proposes to formulate a suitable action plan for balanced development of all regions in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE
(RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a) & (b): In order to specifically address the issue of balanced development of all regions in the country, the Government has initiated the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) in 2006-07. BRGF has two components, namely, (a) District Component covering 272 districts, and (b) State Component covering Special Plans for Bihar, the Koraput-Bolangir-Kalahandi (KBK) districts of Odisha, and West Bengal and the Special Package for implementing Drought Mitigation Strategies in Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. District component aims to help converge and add value to other programmes which are explicitly designed to meet rural employment and infrastructural needs but require supplementation to address critical gaps. It aims at catalyzing development in backward areas by: (a) providing infrastructure; (b) promoting good governance; (c) converging, through supplementary infrastructure and capacity building, the substantial existing development inflows into these districts. The Special Plan for Bihar aims to bring about improvement in sectors like power, road connectivity etc.

The Special Plan for the Koraput-Bolangir-Kalahandi (KBK) districts of Orissa focuses on critical sectors to achieve the objectives of connectivity, electricity, irrigation and education of SC/STs etc. The Special Plan for West Bengal was approved in December, 2011, for funding under the BRGF for an amount Rs. 8,750 crore under the State Component of the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) to address the development needs of the backward regions of the State, through focused projects in 2011-12 and during the 12th Five Year Plan period. It focuses on rural connectivity, water supply, power, housing, irrigation and waterways, health, education, etc. Special Package for implementing Drought Mitigation Strategies in Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh focuses on rainwater harvesting and water management through completion of ongoing and incomplete irrigation, projects for speedy accrual of benefits to farmers. It also includes components such as strengthening livelihood systems through animal husbandry, horticulture, agriculture and strengthening of agricultural marketing.

(c): Does not arise.