

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:435

ANSWERED ON:23.04.2015

FUNDS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF PANCHAYATS

Karunakaran Shri P.;Rajesh Shri M. B.

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) the criteria adopted for selection of districts to be covered under the schemes Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF) and Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashakti- karan Abhiyan (RGPSA);
- (b) the details of funds allocated under these schemes during each of the last three years, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has received any proposals from certain States including Kerala for inclusion of certain districts thereunder and if so, the details and the present status thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to restructure these schemes or proposes to reduce allocation thereunder, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for timely utilisation of funds under these schemes?

Answer

MINISTER FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI BIRENDER SINGH)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred in reply to parts (a) to (e) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 435 for 23.04.2015 regarding Funds for Development of Panchayats.

(a) : The District component of Backward Regions Grant Fund Programme (BRGF) was applicable in 272 identified backward districts of all the States, except Goa. The criteria adopted by the Inter Ministry Task Group set up by the then Planning Commission, for selection of districts to be covered under the BRGF 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). The Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA) was applicable to the States/ UTs as a whole and not district wise. Under it, financial assistance was provided for strengthening the Panchayati Raj system on the basis of the State Annual Plans.

(b) : The details of funds allocated under BRGF and RGPSA during each of the last three years, State/UT-wise is at Annex.

(c) & (d): Proposals/requests were received from various States including Kerala for inclusion of additional districts under BRGF. However, both BRGF and RGPSA (State component) have been delinked from support of the Central Government with effect from 2015-16. From 2015-16, necessary support for these Programmes may be extended by the State Governments from their higher share of resources from the award of the Fourteenth Finance Commission.

(e) : For timely utilisation of funds under these Programmes, Ministry of Panchayati Raj took various steps like regular follow ups with States/ UTs for early submission of Annual Plans along with the requisite documents; review meetings, video conferences with the State/ District level officials and visits by the officials of the Ministry to the States/ UTs. For monitoring of progress under each of the Programmes, a Management Information System (MIS) was established.