

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2546
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2015
WORKS UNDERTAKEN UNDER BRGF
Biju Shri Parayamparanbil Kuttappan

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Governments has conducted any survey with regard to works undertaken and their outcome in the districts under Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) especially in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the manner in which the Union Govern- ment proposes to implement the restructuring of the district component of the BRGF without any survey and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the extent to which the object of balanced development has been met in the backward districts of the country with BRGF along with the details of success achieved in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYTI RAJ (SHRI NIHALCHAND)

(a) (b) & (d): Backward Regions Grant Fund Programme (BRGF) is designed to redress regional imbalances in development. The funds provide financial resources for supple- menting and converging existing develop- mental inflows into identified districts so as to bridge critical gaps in local infrastructure and other development requirements. The BRGF Plans, reflecting the development activities to be taken up are prepared in a participatory manner by the Panchayats to address the local felt needs. As per the Progress Reports received in the Ministry, the funds have been utilised for developmental activities like construction of anganwadi centres, panchayat ghars, roads, culverts, bridges, community halls, water supply, etc.

An independent review-cum-evaluation of the BRGF was undertaken by the World Bank in eight States in July 2009. The World Bank in its report noted that the BRGF has stimulated a process of strengthening of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)/Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), particularly in backward States and districts, and laid the foundation for achieving several of its objectives. The report also noted that the projects are generally addressing local needs within core local government mandates in a relatively cost effective manner.

The Planning Commission had undertaken an evaluation study on BRGF covering the period 2006-07 to 2010-11 which was carried out by the Institute of Human Development, New Delhi in 16 States. The evaluation study looked into various aspects of the Programme including financial and physical progress, role of PRIs, convergence of resources from various schemes, accrued benefits to the target group/ area, training, monitoring mechanism, etc., and assessed the impact of the Programme on the beneficiaries.

(c) As per the Union Budget presented for 2015- 16, the BRGF stands transferred to the States.