

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:993
ANSWERED ON:17.07.2014
BACKWARD DISTRICTS
Biju Shri Parayamparanbil Kuttappan

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of backward districts in the country including in the State of Kerala, State and UT-wise; and
- (b) the schemes being implemented for overall development of the backward districts in the country ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA)

(a) 272 identified backward districts, in 28 States of the country (excluding Goa), are covered under the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) Programme (District component), of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. The State-wise list of backward districts, including those in the State of Kerala, is at Annex.

(b) The BRGF Programme (District component) being implemented by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj is designed to redress regional imbalances in development in 272 identified backward districts. The Programme provides financial resources for supplementing existing developmental inflows into identified districts to bridge the critical gaps in local infrastructure and other development requirements. As per the progress reports received in the Ministry, these funds have been utilised for developmental activities like construction of anganwadi centres, panchayat ghars, roads, culverts, bridges, community halls, water supply, etc.