

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3037
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2015
Special Grant for Backward Areas
Dhurve Smt. Jyoti

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received representation/ request for sanction of special grant for backward areas in the country under Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the present status thereof, State/UT-wise including Madhya Pradesh;
- (c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon; and
- (d) the time by which the funds are likely to be sanctioned for the purposes, State/UT-wise including Madhya Pradesh?

Answer

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

(a)to(d):The specific scheme for the development of backward areas was the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF). The BRGF had two components, namely, State Component and District Component. State Component covered Special Plans for Bihar, the Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi (KBK) districts of Odisha and West Bengal; Special Package for implementing Drought Mitigation Strategies in Bundelkhand Region of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. The District Component of BRGF was launched in 2006-07 covering 250 districts of all States except Goa. Subsequently another 22 districts were added to the list in 2013-14. Representations for inclusion of new districts were received from the States, including Madhya Pradesh, from time to time and decisions were taken as per the extant norms.

From 2015-16, BRGF has become a part of the devolution to the States consequent upon the recommendations of the Fourteenth Finance Commission and no allocation has been made for the programme in budget 2015-16. The higher tax devolution would give the States greater autonomy to design and finance schemes suited to local needs and aspirations, including requirements to bridge the developmental deficit gap in backward regions.