

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:952
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2014
IDENTIFICATION OF BACKWARD TALUKS
Khuba Shri Bhagwanth

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has identified socio-economic backward taluks/block in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has indentified around 81 taluks in Karnataka as most backward in the State and recommended suitable action for all round development and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is taking any steps to ensure the development of the such taluks and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is taking initiatives to implement special schemes/ programmes for such taluks/block in the country and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not the reasons thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA)

(a) & (b): During 2013-14, a Committee was constituted within the Planning Commission which recommended to restructure the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) programme by taking into account certain socio-economic parameters and with the focused attention on districts and sub-districts depending on their backwardness worked out on the basis of the indentified parameters, including economic backwardness, human development backwardness and infrastructure backwardness. The Committee has not identified number of backward taluks of any State, including Karnataka. However, as per the Finance Minister's Budget speech for the year 2014-15, restructuring of BRGF programme seeks to address intra-district inequalities to ensure that backward sub-district units within the States receive adequate financial support.

(c) to (e): Presently, District component of BRGF programme provides financial resources for supplementing and converging existing developmental inflows into 272 identified districts of the country to bridge critical gaps in local infrastructure and other developmental requirements that are not being adequately met through existing inflows. As per Statement 16 of the Expenditure Budget 2014-15, Volume 1, an amount of Rs.338408.49 crore is budgeted in BE 2014-15 as 'Central Assistance for State and Union Territory Plans', including separate Budget provision for District and State components of BRGF. The inter-state allocation of Central assistance, including the assistance for developmental needs of Karnataka, is made within the contours of the respective schemes and factored in at the time of finalization of Annual Plan of the States.