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Title : Need to consider Village Panchayat or Revenue Division as a unit for implementation of the Backward Regions Grant Fund.

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL (VIJAYAWADA): Sir, I would just like to recall that during the Budget Speech, the Finance Minister had announced a Backward Area Development Fund and he has also allocated Rs.5000 crore for this Fund. In the process of identifying the districts, I personally requested the Group of Ministers as also the Prime Minister that we need to adopt a different yardstick in identifying which district should get the money from this Fund. We also have National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme for which the Government has allotted Rs.14,400 crore and 200 districts out of 600 districts have already been selected. Recently the Government has finalised the number of districts and 200 districts plus additional 50 districts got money from the Backward Area Development Fund also.

Coming to my constituency in Krishna District, there are a lot of districts which are partly prosperous and partly backward but none of these two Schemes addressed those districts. In Krishna District in which my Parliamentary Constituency, Vijayawada also falls, half of the district is prosperous which is a delta area and a lot of water is there and the other half is all up land and dry land area where people are living in poverty. Unfortunately, this Scheme has not been extended to them. Our request is that this Scheme should not be given on the district basis because large districts are there where four parliamentary constituencies are there. There are certain districts where four districts comprise of one parliamentary constituency. A village should be taken as a unit. They should identify which are the backward villages. If it is not done, at least, the revenue *mandal* should be taken as a unit. It is my request to the Government. Either it should take the revenue *mandal* or a village should be taken as unit. Then definitely equitable justice will be done to all. Otherwise, this will create some sort of heart burning and hatred among the people of the same district.

Therefore, my request to the Government is that they should look at afresh. I would request the Government to at least rectify it and take a village as a unit.

MR. CHAIRMAN : For the information of the hon. Member, I may inform that the House will be adjourned at 8.00 p.m. There can be no extension. So, if you cooperate, within that time many Members can make their submissions. Otherwise, I am helpless.