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Title : Need to cover all the districts in the country under BRGF (Backward Regions Grant Fund).

SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI (VIZIANAGARAM): Thank you Sir. I would like to raise a matter of public importance with regard to the expansion of scope of BRGF to cover all the districts in the country.

The UPA Government launched the Backward Regions Grant Fund (B.R.G.F.) during 11th plan (2007-2012). Initially, the fund was launched with Rs. 3700 crores covering 250 districts across the length and breadth of India. The then existing Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY) has been subsumed into the BRGF programme. The BRGF includes all the then districts where the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme is implemented and all the districts mentioned in the Inter Ministerial Task Group on Backwardness.

While National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme aims at creating durable assets in rural areas with employment guarantee, the Backward Region Grant Fund aims at creating permanent and productive assets in backward village and municipal local governance with more appropriate capacity building to facilitate participatory planning. The programme is showing good results in all 250 districts by building permanent infrastructure.

I urge upon the government that towards faster and more inclusive growth, such an excellent Backward Region Grant Fund programme should be extended like National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme to all the remaining districts in the country in a phased manner based on scientific evidence of degree of backwardness of the districts.