

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4103

ANSWERED ON:25.08.2004

WIDENING OF DISPARITIES

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Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the widening disparities between the States;
- (b) if so, the strategies being adopted by the Government to narrow down these disparities;
- (c) whether any new scheme has been initiated in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN)

(a): Yes Sir.

(b): The issue of regional disparities amongst the States are addressed through the Gadgil- Mukherjee Formula for allocation of Plan funds to the States and through Central Assistance for earmarked sectors/schemes. According to the Gadgil-Mukherjee Formula, due weightage is given to factors such as income of the State as compared to the National average and to special problems of the States, amongst others, while allocating Central Assistance. In addition, a core element in the Planning Commission's Tenth Plan strategy towards reducing regional disparities is the targeting of less developed areas with provisions of funds for capital investments and innovative delivery mechanisms linked to institutional reforms.

(c): A new scheme called the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY) has been introduced from the Tenth Plan to assist the development of less developed regions and districts.

(d):The Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana has three components, namely,

(i) Special Plan for Bihar,

(ii) Special Plan for the undivided Kalahandi – Bolangir – Koraput (KBK) districts of Orissa, and

(iii) Backward Districts Initiative.

Under the Special Plan for Bihar, Central Assistance is being given for identified projects in prioritized sectors such as power, road connectivity, irrigation, watershed development, forestry, horticulture, etc. Under the Special Plan for the KBK districts of Orissa, Central Assistance is being given to eight districts of the undivided Kalahandi -Bolangir- Koraput (KBK) region. The Plan focuses on tackling the main problems of drought proofing, livelihood support, connectivity, health, education, etc. as per local priorities. Under the Backward Districts Initiative, Central Assistance is being allocated @ Rs.15 crore per year for three years for 132 districts including 32 districts affected by left wing extremism.

The list of 132 districts covered under the Backward Districts Initiative of the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana is enclosed as ANNEXURE.