

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:905
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2005
INCENTIVES TO BACKWARD AREAS
Ramadass Prof. M;Reddy Shri Karunakara G.

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government proposes to withdraw various incentives being provided to backward areas in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the relative spread of population in various backward areas of the country and the financial and auxiliary incentives being provided to these areas;
- (d) the features of backward districts facility created in the Planning Commission;
- (e) the number of backward districts which availed this facility since its inception;
- (f) whether the Government proposes to extend this facility to tackle the backwardness in the country; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

Answer

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

(a): No, sir.

(b): Does not arise.

(c) & (d): The population of 147 districts covered under the Backward Districts Initiative of the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana accounts for 26 per cent of the total population of the country. A sum of Rs. 45 crore is to be provided for each district over a period of three years to fill critical gaps in physical and social infrastructure and livelihood support.

(e): Out of 147 districts covered under the scheme, the District Plans of 129 districts have so far been approved and funds have started flowing to the districts.

(f) & (g): The Union Finance Minister in his Budget Speech for 2005-06 has announced the establishment of a Backward Regions Grant Fund to tackle the problem of backwardness in the country.