

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *328
ANSWERED ON 03.01.2019

BACKWARD REGIONS GRANT FUND

*328. SHRI GODSE HEMANTTUKARAM:

SHRI LAXMI NARAYANYADAV:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any decision to change/relax/revise the parameters of Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number and the details of additional districts in the country which are to be benefited by the said revision;
- (c) the names of the districts in Maharashtra along with the amount of funds given to them through BRGF during the last two years and the current year;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to increase the allocation of funds given to hilly States under BRGF and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government has included local Members of Parliament in the monitoring committee for monitoring/reviewing the works undertaken in the districts under BRGF, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons there for along with the reaction of the Government thereto?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

- (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PARTS (a) to (e) IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 328 FOR ANSWER ON 03.01.2019 REGARDING
BACKWARD REGIONS GRANT FUND

(a) to (e) Consequent upon the implementation of the recommendations of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, the scheme “Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF)” became a part of devolution to the States. Accordingly, no fresh allocation has been made since 2015-16 to the States. Share of States in the net proceeds of the Union taxes has been significantly enhanced from 32% to 42% of the Centre’s net tax receipts as per the recommendation of the Fourteenth Finance Commission. This enhanced the availability of funds with the States allowing them greater autonomy for financing and designing the developmental schemes, especially for the vulnerable and backward regions.

As the BRGF Programme (District Component) has also been delinked from the budgetary support of the Central Government since 2015-16, no district of Maharashtra has been given any fund under BRGF during last two years and the current year and there is no proposal for enhancement of allocation under BRGF for the hilly States.

Annual Action Plans covering the works/ projects to be taken up under the Programme were used to be prepared at the Panchayat level by the Elected Representatives of Gram Panchayat and Urban Local Bodies. The Annual Action Plans prepared in a District were consolidated and approved by the District Planning Committee (DPC) constituted in accordance with Article 243 ZD of the Constitution of India.

For monitoring the works/ projects undertaken under the BRGF Programme, Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) prescribed auditing of Panchayats funds/ works and the Audit Reports to be submitted to the Ministry along with other requisite documents for the release of funds. The utilization of funds was monitored by MoPR through various documents viz. periodic Physical and Financial Progress Reports, Utilization Certificates, Audit Reports of Statutory Auditors etc. submitted by the State Governments. BRGF Guidelines also provided for audit of works through a Review Committee at District Level and Social Audit and Vigilance at the Panchayat levels.
