

AS INTRODUCED IN LOK SABHA

Bill No. 161 of 2019

THE SPECIAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN
ECONOMICALLY BACKWARD REGIONS BILL, 2019

By

SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI, M.P.

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BILL

to provide for the constitution of an Infrastructure Development Board for the infrastructure development of the economically backward regions of the country particularly in the State of Bihar by way of widening of National Highways, construction of ring road, bypass, doubling of single rail track line, construction of over bridge, under bridge in straight structure on railway tracks, construction of regional air strips, construction of jetties, desilting and beautification thereof and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventieth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Special Infrastructure Development in Economically Backward Regions Act, 2019.

Short title,
extent and
commencement.

(2) It extends to the whole of India.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

Definitions.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) "backward region" means the economically backward regions of the country as the Central Government may, from time to time, declare; 5

(b) "Board" means Infrastructure Development Board constituted under section 3;

(c) "infrastructure" includes National Highways, ring roads, bypass, railway tracks, railway stations, regional air strips, under bridges and over bridges; and 10

(d) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act.

Constitution of Infrastructure Development Board.

3. (1) The Central Government shall, by notification in the Official Gazette, constitute a Board to be known as the Infrastructure Development Board for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(2) The headquarter of the Board shall be at Sheohar district in the State of Bihar. 15

(3) The Board shall consist of twenty-five members to be appointed by the Central Government in such manner as may be prescribed:

Provided that at least five members of the Board shall be the Members of Parliament representing backward regions to be nominated by the Central Government in such manner as may be prescribed: 20

Provided further that at least one member of the Board shall have minimum twenty years of experience in infrastructure development sector.

(4) The Chairperson of the Board shall be appointed from amongst the members of Board by consensus. 25

(5) The Board shall consist of such number of officers and employees to be appointed by the Central Government in such manner as may be prescribed.

(6) The salaries and allowances payable to, and the other terms and conditions of service of the Chairperson, members, officers and employees of the Board shall be such as may be prescribed. 30

(7) The Board shall meet every month to review its functions and to establish coordination between various ministries.

Functions of the Board.

4. The Board shall, for the purposes of the development of the backward regions—

(a) carry out annual survey of the infrastructure development work;

(b) fix the priority of the development work to be undertaken; 35

(c) carry out the widening of accident prone National Highways into four lane or six lane roads;

(d) widening of bridges over rivers and roads construct new rail and road bridges;

(e) carry out doubling of single rail track wherever required;

(f) carry out construction of rail under bridges and over bridges in straight shape; 40

(g) carry out construction of bypass and ring roads on National Highways;

(h) operate new trains;

(i) construct and upgrade railway stations with world class facilities;

(j) desilt large ponds, provide for beautification of jetties and operate motor boats and sea planes;

(k) ensure timely repair and renovation of old structures; and

5 (l) carry out other such functions as may be assigned to it, from time to time, by the Central Government.

10 **5. The Central Government shall establish a separate Centralize Management Information System for monitoring development work in the backward regions including the records and the details of all works and the review of the progress of works being undertaken by the Board with the use of modern technology in such manner as may be prescribed.**

Monitoring and assessment of development work.

15 **6. The Central Government shall, in consultation with the Board, provide such economic incentives to the agency which completes the targeted works in specified time in such manner as may be prescribed.**

Economic Incentives to the Agency.

15 **7. The Central Government shall, after due appropriation made by Parliament by law in this behalf, provide requisite funds to the Board for carrying out the purposes of this Act.**

Central Government to provide funds.

8. The Central Government may give such directions to the State Government, to implement the provisions or the rules made under this Act under their jurisdiction, as it may think necessary for the purpose of this Act.

Power to issue directions.

20 **9. (1)** The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the provisions of this Act.

Power to make rules.

25 (2) Every rule made under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or both the Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Most of the regions in the State of Bihar are economically backward regions and the Central Government has been providing economic packages for their development from time to time in the absence of any proper action plan at the States level. This amount is wasted on account of corruption and unnecessary spending and this region is still backward even after the central economic assistance. It is the responsibility of Government to take steps for the holistic development of citizens. It is very essential to quickly develop various infrastructure for the development of backward regions of the country including the State of Bihar. There is lack of regional connectivity through road, rail and air route in most parts of the Bihar State and the present system is not very convenient also.

Accidents are very common in those narrow National Highways which causes loss of life and property. This can be solved by widening the double lane highways. Traffic jams can be avoided in the cities and towns by constructing ring road, bypass and also over bridges and under bridges roads and rail lines, respectively. There are various such points on rivers where one needs to cover a long distance to cross the rivers to reach the side in this region. It can be solved by constructing bridges on such points of the river which would cut down the travel time. Distance by train can become less cumbersome if new trains are operated and doubling of single railway tracks is completed. More amenities can be provided to rail passengers by providing world class level facilities at existing railway stations.

There are several areas in economically backward regions, in particular in the State of Bihar which are naturally very scenic. Regional air facility may be augmented by establishing air connectivity which would increase the accessibility in these areas. There are many big ponds and water bodies which need repair and beautification so that tourism may be promoted in these areas. Construction of jetties around ponds and motor boats and sea planes service in these ponds may also generate more and more employment avenues. Development of the backward regions is very crucial for the development of the country.

The Bill, therefore, seeks to provide for the constitution of an Infrastructure Development Board for the infrastructure development of the economically backward regions of the country including Bihar State including the widening of National Highways, construction of ring road, bypass, doubling of single rail track line, construction of over bridge, under bridge in straight structure on railway tracks, construction of regional air strips, construction of jetties, desilting and beautification thereof to ensure accelerated development of the economically backward region in the State of Bihar.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;
June 26, 2019.

RAMA DEVI

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 3 of the Bill provides for the constitution of a Infrastructure Development Board. It also provides for appointment of Chairperson, members, officers and employees to the Board. Clause 5 provides for establishment of a Centralized Management Information System for monitoring and assessment of development works of the Board. Clause 6 provides for the economic incentives to the agencies which completes the targeted works in specified time. Clause 7 provides that the Central Government shall provide requisities funds to the Board for carrying out the purposes of this Act. The Bill, therefore, if enacted, will involve expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India. It is estimated that a sum of rupees five thousand crore would involve as recurring expenditure per annum from the Consolidated Fund of India.

A non-recurring expenditure of rupees five hundred crore is also likely to be incurred.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 9 of the Bill empowers the Central Government to make rules for carrying out the purposes of the Bill. As the rules will relate to matters of detail only, the delegation of legislative power is, therefore, of a normal character.

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(Shrimati Rama Devi, M.P.)