

Bill No. 78 of 2019

THE BACKWARD AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD BILL, 2019

By

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL, M.P.

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BILL

to provide for the establishment of an autonomous Board for the overall development of economically backward areas of the country.

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

1. This Act may be called the Backward Areas Development Board Act, 2019. Short title.
2. (1) The Central Government shall, by notification in the Official Gazette, declare the areas of the country as backward areas which in the opinion of the Central Government are economically backward. Identification of backward areas.

(2) Till such time the Central Government by notification so declares, the districts identified by Niti Aayog in 2018 as backward districts shall be treated as backward areas.

Backward
Areas
Development
Board.

3. (1) There shall be established by The Central Government by notification in the Official Gazette, a Board to be called the Backward Areas Development Board.

(2) The Board shall be a body corporate by the name aforesaid, having perpetual succession and a common seal, with power to acquire, hold and dispose of property, both movable and immovable, and to contract, and shall by the said name sue and be sued. 5

(3) The head office of the Board shall be at New Delhi and Board may, with the previous approval of the Central Government, establish offices at other places in country.

Composition
of Board.

4. The Board shall consist of the following members, namely:— 10

(a) a Chairperson, who shall be the Vice-Chairperson of the Niti Aayog, *ex-officio*;

(b) a Vice-Chairperson to be appointed by the Central Government;

(c) ten Members of Parliament from Lok Sabha to be elected by the Members House, who belong to the backward areas, from amongst themselves; 15

(d) ten members to be appointed by the Central Government to represent respectively:—

(i) the Planning Commission (other than the Chairperson of the Board);

(ii) the Ministry of the Central Government dealing with Agriculture;

(iii) the Ministry of the Central Government dealing with Industrial Development; 20

(iv) the Ministry of Central Government dealing with Finance;

(v) the Ministry of Central Government dealing with Railways;

(vi) the Ministry of Central Government dealing with Communications and Information Technology; 25

(vii) the Ministry of Central Government dealing with Education;

(viii) the Ministry of Central Government dealing with Health and Family Welfare;

(ix) the Ministry of Central Government dealing with Irrigation; and

(x) the Ministry of Central Government dealing with Road Transport and Highways; 30

(e) four members to be appointed by the Central Government, who, in the opinion of that Government are experts in various fields of economic development.

Development
of Backward
Areas.

5. (1) It shall be the duty of the Board to promote, by such measures as it thinks fit, the all-around development of the backward areas of the country. 35

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the provisions of sub-section (1), the Board shall take measures for the development, particularly, of railways, roads, posts and telegraphs and other means of communications, agriculture and irrigation, industries, banking, drinking water and water power; forests, live-stock, health and family welfare, education, vocational training and tourism in the backward areas of the country. 40

(3) The Central Government shall set up such industries in the backward areas as it may determine.

	6. The Central Government shall provide from time to time, after due appropriation made by Parliament by law in this behalf, adequate funds for—	Appropriation of fund.
	(a) development works undertaken by the Board; and	
	(b) administrative expenses of the board.	
5	7. The Board shall have fund to be called the Development Fund to which shall be credited all receipts from the Central Government for the purposes of development of the backward areas and all payments by the Board towards development expenditure shall be made therefrom.	Development fund.
10	8. The Board shall also have a fund to be called the Administration Fund to which shall be credited all receipts from the Central Government for the purposes of administration of the Board and all administrative expenses shall be met therefrom.	Administration Fund.
	9. The Vice-Chairperson of the Board shall be entitled to such salary and Allowances as may be prescribed by the Central Government.	Salary of Vice Chairperson.
15	10. The Central Government shall appoint a Secretary to the Board to exercise such powers and perform such duties as may be delegated to him by the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson.	Secretary to the Board.
	11. The Board may appoint such officers and employees as may be necessary for the efficient performance of its functions.	Appointment of officers and staff.
20	12. (1) The Board shall submit every year a report, in such form as may be prescribed, of its development activities in the backward areas to the Prime Minister.	Annual Report.
	(2) The Prime Minister shall cause the report to be laid before each House of Parliament as soon as may be after receipt of the report.	
	13. (1) The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.	Powers to make rules.
25	(2) Every rule made under this section 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 thirty days as 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	
30	such modification or annulment shall be made without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under the rule.	

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The need for reducing and removing economic disparities between different regions of the country was recognised as soon as the nation launched the programme of planned economic development. Accelerated development of backward areas, with a view to reduce regional disparities, was one of the important national objectives. But, even after seventy years of independence, the economic disparities among regions have not only persisted but have also increased. Required attention has not been paid to develop the backward areas.

For the development of the backward areas of the country and to bring them up in a short time to the level of the rest of the country, the strategy should be to evolve a fully integrated development programme for identified backward areas to ensure their all-round progress. For drought-prone areas which have a predominance of small and marginal farmers, area based programmes which envisage a flow of the necessary inputs in the form of a package to enable accelerated economic development should be implemented. In addition, a programme of giving incentives to enable accelerated industrialization of identified backward areas should be implemented. It should be ensured that infrastructural facilities like power, water supply and transport are steadily developed and made available to areas which are at present lagging behind industrially or where there is greater need for providing opportunities for employment. In order to achieve these objectives, an autonomous body, though under the overall control of the Central Government, should be established which would be responsible for planning and implementation of area based package programme in coordination with the Planning Commission and the State Governments. Further to ensure that the elected representatives from the identified backward districts do participate in the development process and share their experiences and inputs from the local people to enhance the performance of the board.

The Bill seeks to achieve the above objective.

NEW DELHI;

JAGDAMBIKA PAL

June 12, 2019.

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 3 of the Bill provides for the establishment of the Backward Areas Development Board. Clause 4 provides for appointment of Vice-Chairperson and four members who are experts in various fields of economic development, among others. Clause 9 provides for payment of salary to Vice-Chairperson. Clauses 10 and 11 provides for appointment of a Secretary to the Board and other necessary staff for performance of the functions of the Board. The Bill, therefore, if enacted, is likely to involve a recurring expenditure of about rupees fifteen lakh from the Consolidated Fund of India on account of administrative expenses. So far as the development expenditure (Clause 6) is concerned, that will form part of the annual expenditure on development plans of the country as a whole, and the development funds shall be made available to the Board after due appropriation by Parliament. An estimate of such expenditure is not possible at this state. However, a recurring expenditure of about rupees ten thousand crore would be involved.

A non-recurring expenditure of about rupees fifty crore is also likely to be incurred.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 13 of the Bill empowers the Central Government to make rules for carrying out the purposes of the Bill. As the rules will provide for matters of detail only, the delegation of legislative power is of a normal character.

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(Shri Jagdambika Pal, M.P.)