

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

RAJYA SABHA

QUESTION NO 21.04.2010

ANSWERED ON

SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT BOARD FOR KONKAN .

2823

Dr. Bharatkumar Raut

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether it is a fact that a proposal for establishment of separate Statutory Development Board for Konkan was sent by the Maharashtra Government in 1989;
- (b) whether the Constitutional amendment is required for establishment of such a board under Article 371(2);
- (c) the reasons of not inclusion of Konkan region when the notification regarding establishment of Statutory Development Boards for Vidarbha, Marathwada and the rest of Maharashtra was issued in 1994 under the Article 371(2); and
- (d) the details of the statutory reasons for not considering the separate Statutory Development Board for Konkan after repeated requests made by the Maharashtra Government?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJAY MAKEN)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir.

(c) & (d): Although Article 371 (2) which was inserted in the Constitution in 1956 provides for establishment of separate Statutory Development Boards for Vidarbha, Marathwada and the rest of Maharashtra, these Development Boards were set up only from 1.5.1994 onwards on the basis of a proposal received from Government of Maharashtra in December 1993. Planning Commission was requested in August 1998 to give its assessment of the effectiveness and working of the existing three development boards in Maharashtra. The Planning Commission submitted its detailed performance evaluation report in April 2003. It was observed from this report and the data available in the Government of2- Maharashtra's Human Development Report 2002, that considerable development had already taken place in the Konkan region. In view of this, the Government of Maharashtra was requested to reconsider its proposal. Government of Maharashtra on 22.6.2005 reiterated its stand that a separate Development Board for Konkan is necessary. However, since the original Resolution of the State Legislature to this effect had been passed in 1989, Government of Maharashtra was requested to obtain afresh the views of both Houses of the State Legislature. Government received a Resolution passed on 20th February, 2005 by both the Houses of Maharashtra State Legislature recommending the establishment of a separate Development Board for Konkan region of the State. The Planning Commission, who were consulted in the matter, are of the view that backwardness by itself is not a reason for constitutional amendment as there are other instruments available to the Centre and State Governments to gear up their developmental machinery.