

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4688

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY THE FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 2018/CHAITRA 2, 1940 (SAKA)

Financial Assistance to Economically Backward Region

4688. SHRI KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- a) the pattern of financial assistance given to the Economically Backward Regions in the country;
- b) the reasons for change in the pattern of assistance made, including the assistance given under Central Schemes;
- c) whether any initiatives have been taken by the Government for the rapid development of Economically Backward Regions in the country including Bundelkhand; and
- d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE
(SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN)

(a) : Till 2014-15, financial assistance was given to accelerate socio-economic development of the most backward regions/districts in the country under the Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF) programme. Central funds are mainly released to States under various Central Sector/Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

(b) : Following the recommendation of 14th Finance Commission for biggest ever increase in States share in divisible pool of Central taxes and duties from 32% to 42%, many schemes including BRGF along with other State Plan Schemes stand subsumed in larger devolution.

Based on the recommendations of the Sub-Group of Chief Ministers, after the approval of the Cabinet, funding pattern of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) between Central and States has been revised. The rationale being to ensure optimum utilization of resources with better outcomes through area specific interventions and also ensure wider reach of the benefits to the target groups.

(c) & (d) : Upliftment of 115 backward districts is being undertaken through focused approach and convergence/ synergy among the existing schemes. All Centrally Sponsored Schemes/Central Sector Scheme within their individual scheme guidelines give weightage to backward districts/areas for fund allotment.
