GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PLANNING

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3645
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.08.2018

BACKWARD DISTRICTS

3645.   SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

 (a) the criteria laid down for grant of packages to the backward districts;
 (b) whether the bigger districts such as Anantpur are treated on equal footing with the smaller ones;
 (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
 (d) whether funds to some backward districts of Andhra Pradesh have been withheld even after submitting utilisation certificate; and
 (e)   if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken to release the funds?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE   MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
(RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a) to (e): Following the recommendation of the Fourteenth Finance Commission for the biggest ever increase in States' share in the divisible pool of Central taxes and duties from 32% to 42%, numerous Schemes including BRGF meant for the identified backward districts stand subsumed in the larger devolution to States since 2015. Therefore, the Government of India does not release fund under such schemes for any backward district including Ananthapuramu in Andhra Pradesh, and hence no criteria has been laid down for grant of packages to the backward districts including the districts in Andhra Pradesh.

However, as per the provisions under Section 46(3) of AP Reorganization Act, 2014, considering the special development package for the successor State of Andhra Pradesh, the Central Government released an amount of Rs 350 crore in each year from 2014-15 to 2016-17 for the development of seven backward districts of Andhra Pradesh, including Ananthapuramu district, at the rate of Rs. 50 crore per district. The districts are Ananthapuramu, Chittoor, YSR Kadapa, Kurnool, Vizianagaram, Vishakapatnam and Srikakulam. No funds have been hitherto released during 2017-18 for Andhra Pradesh under AP Reorganization Act, 2014.