

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3774
ANSWERED ON 21.12.2021

BACKWARD REGION GRANT FUND (BRGF)

†3774. SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some States and districts are lagging behind in respect of development and some other States and districts are developing rapidly causing a huge gap between States and regions specially between the districts selected in Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF);
- (b) if so, the schemes being implemented by the Government to bring the backward region at par with developed States; and
- (c) the extent to which BRGF is helpful for improving the conditions of less developed States?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ

(SHRI KAPIL MORESHWAR PATIL)

(a) & (b) Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) was implementing Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) Programme (District component) during the period 2006-07 to 2014-15 which provided financial resources for supplementing and converging existing developmental inflows into identified districts to bridge critical gaps in local infrastructure and other development requirements. BRGF Programme has been delinked from the budgetary support of the Central Government since 2015-16 consequent upon the implementation of the recommendations of the Fourteenth Finance Commission under which the share of States in the net proceeds of the Union taxes was significantly enhanced from 32% to 42% that allowed the States with greater autonomy for financing and designing the developmental schemes, especially for the backward regions. Further, as apprised by NITI Aayog, Aspirational Districts Programme, implemented by NITI Aayog, aims at rapid transformation of 112 Aspirational

Districts which shows relatively less progress in key social and economic indicators such as Health and Nutrition, School Education and Basic Infrastructure, Agriculture etc. Performance of these districts is monitored on a monthly basis which is available in the public domain on the Champions of Change Dashboard (<http://championsofchange.gov.in/site/coc-home/>). The broad strategy of the Aspirational Districts Programme rests on the 3 Cs – Convergence (between Central and State Schemes), Collaboration (between Centre, State, District Administration, Development Partners and Citizens) and Competition (between Districts). Every month, districts are ranked on the basis of progress made on the key performance indicators mentioned above, and this instills them with a sense of competition which results in rapid improvement.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) & (b) above.
