

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2779
ANSWERED ON 18.03.2025

BRGF SCHEME

†2779. SHRI UMMEDA RAM BENIWAL:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some States and districts in the country are lagging behind in terms of development while others are making progress at a fast pace;
- (b) the details of plan to reduce or bridge the above gap;
- (c) the details of schemes to bring backward areas in frontiers and desert areas at par with developed States;
- (d) the extent to which Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) scheme which has been scrapped was helpful in improving the status of least developed States in the country;
- (e) the reasons discontinuance of the said scheme;
- (f) whether the Government intends to restart the BRGF scheme in the country particularly in Jaisalmer and Barmer Parliamentary Constituency; and
- (g) if so, the time by which and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PANCHAYATI RAJ

(PROF. S. P. SINGH BAGHEL)

(a) to (c) Socio-economic development is an ongoing process, with stages of progress and regional disparities varying based on multiple socio-economic factors. The Government of India implements various schemes across ministries to ensure equitable development across all regions, including frontier areas and desert regions. Notable initiatives such as the Aspirational District Programme, Aspirational Block Programme, and Border Area

Development Programme specifically focus on bridging regional development gaps.

(d) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj was implementing the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) Programme (District component) during the period 2006-07 to 2014-15 in 272 districts of 28 States of the country. During this period, grants of more than Rs.26,000 crore were released for the districts covered under the scheme to bridge the critical gaps in local infrastructure and other development requirements which were not being adequately met through the existing financial inflows during that period.

(e) to (g) The BRGF programme was 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.
