

IAP substituting backward regions grant fund in LWE districts

2706. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts, the Integrated Action Plan (IAP) has substituted the Backward Regions Grant Fund;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the IAP continues to be implemented by a group of three officials; and

(d) the role assigned to Panchayati Raj Institutions and the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 for the delivery of public goods and services listed in the Eleventh Schedule in designated Left Wing Extremism districts and non-left Wing Extremism districts in Fifth Scheduled Areas respectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI JITENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) The Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) has two components namely, the District component and the State component. The IAP is a sub-component of the State component of the BRGF and has not substituted the District component.

(c) In terms of approval of the Government to the IAP, the funds are placed at the disposal of a Committee headed by the District Collector and consisting of the Superintendent of Police and the District Forest Officer. The District-level Committee has the flexibility to allocate development projects according to the needs assessed by it.

The primary objective of the IAP is to create public infrastructure and services in the LWE affected districts. The IAP is also expected to bridge the trust-deficit between the district administration and the local communities, which is an important component of the Government's holistic intervention against LWE. The State Governments and the District Collectors have also been advised to ensure a suitable form of consultation with the Local Members of Parliament and other elected representatives including the representatives of the Panchayati Raj Institutions regarding the projects to be taken up under the IAP.

(d) The provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 are applicable to the areas covered under the Fifth Schedule to the

Constitution. Under this framework, the Gram Sabha approves the plans, programmes and projects for social and economic development before they are implemented by the Panchayats. The Gram Sabha is also responsible for the identification or selection of the beneficiaries under the poverty alleviation and other programmes.

However, in LWE affected areas, the status of Panchayati Raj institutions are a cause for concern. The CPI (Maoist) are ideologically opposed to the institutions of parliamentary democracy including local self Governments. They consider such institutions status-quoist and as reinforcing the existing class contradictions and stratification in the society. It is pertinent to mention that since 2007, the Maoists have killed around 130 representatives of local self Governments in different States of India. In recent times, around 99 representatives of Panchayati Raj institutions have resigned from Gadchiroli district alone, due to intimidation by the Maoists. In the State of Odisha, during the Panchayat elections in 2011, a large number of Maoist sympathizers were elected unopposed.

The implementation of IAP in the present form has to be viewed in this context. It is a short term intervention to address an abnormal situation. While striving for compliance to an ideal construct, public policy also has to factor in ground realities of a given situation. Accordingly, during the implementation of IAP, the district administration has been advised to *inter-alia* consult representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions also.

Solution to naxalite violence in Chhattisgarh and adjoining States

†2707. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any solution of naxalite violence in Chhattisgarh and adjoining States;

(b) if so, whether Government has any effective solution and the reason for hesitation in implementation;

(c) whether Central Government has handed over the responsibility of curbing naxalism to State Governments so that they may entangle themselves in naxal problem; and

(d) whether in view of the fact that despite States' efforts naxalism is increasing in the State, tribals are being harmed and killed and also that naxalism

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.