

Additional funds to Chhattisgarh under BRGF

†3454. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether additional funds are provided by Central Government to Chhattisgarh for elimination of backwardness at district level for panchayati raj development under BRGF scheme; and

(b) whether the Central Government could provide additional funds to Panchayati Raj Institutions under B.R.G.F. Scheme because construction of houses for extremely backward new districts *i.e.* Gariaband and Balod of the State is required?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) Under the District Component of the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) Programme, the annual allocation for the fifteen identified backward districts of Chhattisgarh for this financial year (2014-15) is fixed at ₹ 313.96 crore at present.

(b) Gariaband and Balod districts are not covered under the BRGF Programme.

Funds to PRIS

3455. SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the funds released to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) during 2011-12;

(b) the details of the schemes/purposes for which these funds were used, Panchayat-wise;

(c) the infrastructure present in PRIs for financial governance including accountability and monitoring systems; and

(d) the steps taken by the Ministry to aid or develop better systems of financial governance within PRIs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) does not release funds directly to the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) under its schemes.

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

(c) and (d) To develop better systems of financial governance and accountability,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

MoPR has prescribed auditing of Panchayats funds/works and the Audit Reports are to be submitted to the Ministry alongwith, other requisite documents for release of funds. The audit is to be done either by Local Fund Auditors or by Chartered Accountants listed in the panel of the State Government or Accountant General of the State. The utilization of funds is monitored by MoPR through various documents viz. periodical Physical & Financial Progress Reports, Utilization Certificates, Audit Reports of Statutory Auditors, etc. submitted by the State Governments. Guidelines also provide for audit of works through a Review Committee at District Level and Social Audit and Vigilance at the Panchayat levels and States have been advised that the Annual Action Plan is to be discussed/ ratified in the Gram Sabha and list of activities undertaken under BRGF Programme during the preceding year are to be voluntarily disclosed before the Gram Sabha to facilitate empowerment of Gram Sabha and strengthen social audit function of the Gram Sabha. The States have also been advised to follow the Model Accounting System (MAS) for Panchayats, jointly prepared by this Ministry and Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG).

Criteria for BRGF

3456. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria being considered for extending the benefits of the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) to district;

(b) whether any proposal has been received from Andhra Pradesh Government to include any district in the list of BRGF; and

(c) whether any *suo-motu* decision has been taken to include any district from the State in the list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) The criteria considered for inclusion of districts under Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) Programme include economic (per capita credit & deposits, percentage of agriculture labourers, agriculture wages and output per agricultural worker); social and educational (percentage of SC and ST population, female literacy rate, ratio of secondary schools to population of specific age group and gross enrolment ratio class I-VIII - age 6-13 years); health (crude death and infant mortality rate, institutional delivery and full immunization) and amenities (percentage of households without electricity, with bank services and drinking water source greater than 500 meters away).