

etc. Under BRGF, funds were provided to 272 backward districts in the counter addressing the regional developmental imbalances and filling up the resource gaps in developmental schemes. The Ministry also supports States to devolve powers to Panchayats through incentivization and regular reviews.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, Fourteenth Finance Commission (FFC) has recommended an allocation of ₹ 2,00,292.20 crores as Grants to duly constituted Gram Panchayats during the award period 2015-20, which constitutes an assistance of ₹ 488 per capita per annum at an aggregate level.

Release of funds under BRGF to Odisha

1519. SHRI A. V. SWAMY: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Odisha has submitted the Annual Action Plan under the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) of ₹ 396.83 crore for 20 districts to the Ministry for the year 2014-15 against which only ₹ 179.46 crore has been released;

(b) whether there is any proposal to release the balance amount of ₹ 217.37 crore during the current year; and

(c) if so, how soon the funds would be released and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI NIHAL CHAND): (a) Yes, Sir. For the year 2014-15, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj had received proposals from the State Government of Odisha for releasing funds against the annual allocation of ₹ 396.83 crore under the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) Programme. The Ministry released ₹ 176.46 crore to the State. The release of funds under BRGF Programme was subject to receipt of complete documents including the annual action plans, minutes of the District Planning Committee meetings of the identified Districts, utilisation certificates, audit reports, physical and financial progress reports, etc., and also availability of budgetary provisions with the Ministry.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) With effect from the current financial year (2015-16), the BRGF Programme has been delinked from the budgetary support of the Central Government.

TPSIT Neyveli, Tamil Nadu

1520. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state: