The Government, therefore, fixes the targets for capacity additions in the beginning of the financial year. During financial years 2013-14 and 2014-15, additional capacities for grid-interactive renewable power installed through various sources of renewable energy were 3639.5 MW and 4089.2 MW respectively against the corresponding targets of 4325 MW and 3770 MW.

(c) The increase in generation of renewable energy is already visible in the country. In order to facilitate further increase in the share of renewable energy in the total installed capacity of power generation in the country, *inter-alia,* requires low cost, long tenor financing, favorable and consistent policy initiatives, by States timely clearances including forest clearances by States, compliance of Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) Targets by States, adequate availability of land resources for renewables as well as expansion of the transmission capacity.

(d) The tariff rates for renewable energy generated from various sources are determined either through Central Electricity Regulatory Commission/respective State Electricity Regulatory Commission's Regulations or through competitive bidding, therefore, there are no issues relating to tariff rates of renewable energy. Transmission infrastructure needs upgradation for evacuation of renewable energy which is being addressed through Green Energy Corridor Projects implemented in eight renewable energy rich states.

(e) The Government has set the target to reach 175 GW of renewable energy capacity by the year 2022 which includes 100 GW from solar, 60 GW from wind, 10 GW from bio-power and 5 GW from small hydro-power.

Development work under BRGF in most backward districts

†870. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the number of most backward districts in the country where development works are being done under the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF);

(b) the details of development works being done presently under this scheme;

(c) whether Government would consider amending the prescribed works under the scheme; and

(d) if so, by when and the details of new works proposed to be included therein?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI NIHALCHAND): (a) 272 identified backward districts in the country were covered under the District component of the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) Programme which was being implemented by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj till the year 2014-15.

(b) As per the progress reports received in the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, funds under the Programme have been utilised in the backward districts for developmental works like construction of anganwadi centres, panchayat ghars, roads, culverts, bridges, community halls, water supply, etc. With effect from the current financial year (2015-16), the BRGF Programme has been delinked from the budgetary support of the Central Government.

(c) and (d) In view of (b) above, do not arise.

Provision of more financial powers to Panchayats

871. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken by Government to provide more financial powers to Panchayats in the country during the current financial year;

(b) whether the said proposal would benefit the living standard of people of rural areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI NIHALCHAND): (a) As per the recommendations of the Fourteenth Finance Commission (FFC), ₹ 200,292.20 crores are being provided as grants to Gram Panchayats for 2015-2020. This grant to Panchayats is more than three times the grant provided by the Thirteenth Finance Commission (13th FC). Ministry of Finance has released 1st instalment of the Basic Grant for Rural Local Bodies recommended by the FFC to 26 States and 2nd instalment to Maharashtra and Sikkim during 2015-16.

(b) and (c) This grant is for basic services such as sanitation, drinking water, maintenance of community assets, maintenance of roads, footpaths and street-lighting, and burial and cremation grounds, etc. which benefit the living standard of people in rural areas. In order to ensure proper utilization of these funds and achieve convergence with other programmes like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), the Ministry has facilitated preparation of State guidelines for Gram Panchayat level development plans.