

## **Part-IV**

# **Balanced Regional Development**

## **IV. BALANCED REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **Background Regions Grant Fund (BRGF)**

Planning and development of an area and allocation of funds are primarily the responsibility of the State Governments concerned. The Central Government has been supplementing the efforts of the State Governments through Special Area Programmes. The Union Government initiated the Backward Regions Grant Fund(BRGF) in 2006-07 to specifically address the issue of reduction in regional imbalance in the country replacing the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana(RSVY). The BRGF has been designed to address the issues relating to reduction in regional imbalance more holistically than the standard Government programmes.

Currently, the BRGF has the following components in operation:

- i. District Component covering 250 backward districts of 27 States,
  - ii. Special Plans for Bihar
  - iii. Special Plan for the KBK districts of Orissa,
  - iv. Integrated Action Plan for 60 Selected Tribal and Backward Districts, and
  - v. Special Package for Implementing Drought Mitigation Strategies in Bundelkhand Region
- (i) District Component covering 250 districts of 27 States**

The District Component of BRGF is being administered by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. This component aims to help converge and add value to other programmes like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) which are explicitly designed to meet rural infrastructural needs, but which need supplementation to address critical gaps. This component covers 250 districts in 27 States.

The allocation for this component was being made at the level of Rs.4670 crore from 2007-08 to 2009-10 and was enhanced to Rs.5050 crore from 2010-11. The scheme aims to bring about focused development of identified backward districts by implementation of programmes selected through people's participation. Panchayati Raj Institutions(PRIs) from village up to the district level are the authorities for planning and implementation in keeping with the provisions of the Constitution. All the 250 districts are being allocated funds as per

BRGF norms. As per these norms, a fixed amount of Rs 10 crore per district per year is being provided and the remaining amount, out of the total allocation for all the districts, is being provided based on equal weightage for area and population

**(ii) Special Plan for Bihar**

The Special Plan for Bihar was formulated to bring about improvement in sectors like power, road connectivity, irrigation, forestry and watershed development in the State. The latest estimated cost of all the projects approved for funding under the Special Plan is Rs. 8753.01 crore.

An allocation of Rs.1000 crore per annum was being made for the Special Plan during the Tenth Plan period after approval to the scheme in 2003-04. The same allocation was approved to be made during the Eleventh Plan period. An amount of Rs. 7285.65 crore has been released from 2003-04 to 2010-11. The allocation was enhanced to Rs.2000 crore for 2010-11 and to Rs.1468 crore for 2011-12 to meet the remaining cost of the projects being funded under the Special Plan.

**(iii) Special Plan for the KBK districts of Orissa**

The undivided Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput (KBK) districts of Orissa (now reorganized into eight districts, namely, Kalahandi, Nuapada, Bolangir, Sonapur, Koraput, Nabrangpur, Malkangiri and Rayagada) have been the focus of attention since the 1980s. A Long-Term Action Plan was launched in 1995 and a Revised Long-Term Action Plan (RLTAP) in 1998-99. The Planning Commission began allocating Additional Central Assistance to fill critical gaps from 1998-99.

The Planning Commission started funding the Special Plan for the KBK districts from the year 2002-03. The Special Plan focuses on tackling the main problems of drought proofing, livelihood support, connectivity, health, education, etc. An allocation of Rs.250 crore per annum was being made for the Special Plan for the KBK districts of Orissa during the Tenth Plan period. This allocation has been protected during the Eleventh Plan. Rs.130 crore is being provided under the Special Plan and the balance of Rs.120 crore under the District Component.

**(iv) Integrated Action Plan (IAP) for 60 Selected Tribal and Backward Districts**

An Integrated Action Plan (IAP) for 60 Selected Tribal and Backward Districts in 9 States was approved by the Government on 25.11.2010 with a block grant of Rs. 25 crore and Rs. 30 crore per district for 2010-11 and 2011-12 respectively to be placed at the disposal of the Committee headed by the District Collector and consisting of the Superintendent of Police of the District and the District Forest Officer. The District-level Committee has the flexibility to spend the amount for development schemes according to need, as assessed by it. The State Governments and the District Collectors/ District Magistrates have also been advised to ensure a suitable form of consultation with the local Member of Parliament on the schemes to be taken up under IAP. They may also consult panchayats and other local bodies for the purpose. The District-level Committee has to draw up a Plan consisting of concrete proposals for public infrastructure and services such as School Buildings, Anganwadi Centres, Primary Health Centres, Drinking Water Supply, Village Roads, Electric lights in public places such as PHCs and schools, etc. The schemes so selected will show results in the short term. The Development Commissioner / equivalent officer in charge of development in the State is responsible for scrutiny of expenditure and monitoring of the IAP).

Regular monitoring of the IAP is being carried out by the Member-Secretary, Planning Commission through video conference meetings with the District Collectors.

As per the information uploaded by the districts on the MIS, as against Rs. 2100 crore released to all the 60 districts during 2010-11 and 2011-12, the expenditure has already reached at Rs. 1005.43 crore (as on 02.09.2011) which works out to about 47.88%. The 60 districts put together have taken up 66800 works/ projects under IAP, out of which 26313 works/ projects have already been completed. The nature of major works/projects taken up by the districts under IAP include construction of School Buildings/ School Furniture, Anganwadi Centres, Drinking Water Facilities, Rural Roads, Panchayats Bhawan/ Community Halls, Godowns/ PDS shops, livelihood activities, skill development/ trainings, Minor Irrigation Works, Electric Lighting, Health Centres/Facilities, Ashram Schools, construction of Toilets, construction of multi-purpose chabutra, construction of passenger waiting hall, special coaching classes for students, construction of ANM Centres, development of play grounds etc.

**(v) Special Package for Implementing Drought Mitigation Strategies in Bundelkhand Region.**

Keeping in view the consecutive deficient rainfall experienced since 2004-05 by the Bundelkhand region (Bundelkhand region comprises 7 districts of UP – Banda, Chitrakoot, Hamirpur, Jalaun, Jhansi, Lalitpur and Mahoba and 6 districts of MP – Chhatarpur, Damoh, Datia, Panna, Sagar and Tikamgarh), the Govt. of India (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation) constituted an Inter-ministerial Central Team in 2008 lead by Dr. J.S. Samra, Chief Executive Officer of the National Rainfed Area Authority to visit for an on the ground assessment of the situation. On recommendation of the Team, the Union Government on 19.11.2009 approved a Special package for implementing drought mitigation strategies in Bundelkhand region at a cost of Rs.7266 crore comprising Rs.3506 crores for Uttar Pradesh and Rs.3760 crores for Madhya Pradesh, to be implemented over a period of 3 years starting 2009-10. The Government has further approved, on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2011, an Additional Central Assistance of Rs.200 crore (Rs.100 crore each for the State Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh) to provide drinking water in the Bundelkhand region. The shares of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh in Additional Central Assistance, including the component of drinking water, are Rs. 1696 crore and Rs.1954 crore respectively. The balance cost of the package is to be met by converging resources from the central sector and centrally sponsored schemes by dedicating the specified amounts as indicated in the enclosed Annexure under these schemes specifically for the specific objectives of the Bundelkhand package thereby ensuring that the amount of Rs.7466 crore for Bundelkhand, will be utilised specifically to address objectives of the package. This scheme of funding pattern has been communicated to the State Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh and the projects are being implemented accordingly under this package.

Out of the envisaged allocation of Rs. 1696 crore of ACA for Uttar Pradesh, an amount of Rs. 860.97 crore (50.77%) has been released till 31.07.2011 against which an amount of Rs. 214.21 crore (24.9%) has been spent by the State till 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011. Out of the allocation of Rs. 1954 crore of ACA for the Government of Madhya Pradesh, an amount of Rs. 1060.46 crore (53.78%) has been released till 31.07.2011 against which the State has spent an amount of Rs. 416.60 crore (39.40 %) till 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011.

The activities being implemented under the package are at different stages of implementation in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh and progress is being monitored by the Planning Commission and National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA). The responsibility for implementation of the projects/interventions envisaged under the special package for drought mitigation strategies in Bundelkhand region rest with the State Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

For proper implementation of the package monitoring mechanisms have been set up at various levels including the Monitoring Committee in the Planning Commission with Members of Planning Commission in-charge of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh as Chairman and Co-chairman, the Chief Secretaries of both the States, and the Secretaries of the related Departments as Members. The Advisory Committee constituted under Chairmanship of the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission with all Members of Parliament (Lok Sabha) from Bundelkhand as its Members also reviews the progress of the implementation of the projects. The Chief Executive Officer and the Technical Experts of the National Rainfed Area Authority regularly visit the region to see on the ground implementation of the projects/activities and provide necessary suggestions for improvement.