

Guidelines Backward Area Sub-Plan

Himachal Pradesh remained concerned about the need to remove the micro level regional disparities/ imbalances in terms of creation of infrastructural facilities in Backward Areas. With this view, identification of certain areas as backward was taken up during the Fourth Five Year Plan and efforts were made to identify certain areas being remote and inaccessible which remained neglected due to their inaccessibility and other difficult geographical and harsh climatic conditions prevalent in these areas. The basic criteria decided for this purpose was remoteness, inaccessibility, coupled with visual perception of the level of socio- economic development and infrastructural backwardness. This process gave birth to the formulation of the Backward Area Sub- Plan which was designed to mitigate the micro-regional disparities in development and to look after the developmental needs at the micro level for these identified areas.

Finally, on the recommendations of the Deputy Commissioners, some areas were identified as backward in the nine districts of Himachal Pradesh. Therefore, the original efforts was initiated during the Fourth Plan and was consolidated in the beginning of the Fifth Plan vide notification No. 1-21/71-Plan-Vol-VI dated 24th June, 1974. But this contained all the scheduled areas of Kinnaur, Lahaul-Spiti and Pangi and Bharmour of Chamba District which were already covered under the concept of Tribal Sub- Plan. Another exercise was carried out during the late seventies which was based on a objective criteria rather than the visual perception concept. This was followed by setting-up a committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, HP Government to go into the following issues.

1. To examine the existing set of norms for identification and declaration of backward areas and recommend suitable changes in the structure and weightage of the indicators/norms;
2. To examine the existing scheme of earmarking plan allocations for development of backward areas and recommend suitable changes in deciding the level of earmarking and sectoral coverage;
3. To suggest appropriate budgetary mechanism to ensure investment of earmarked provisions in the designated backward areas;
4. To examine the question of unit of declaration;
5. To suggest an appropriate monitoring and review mechanism to ensure effective implementation of development plans in the designated areas.

Finally, the State Government issued notification declaring 321 panchayats as backward vide notification No. PLG FC(F)3-55/82 dated 10-1-1986. After this identification having been crystallized, exclusive earmarking in the budget under separate sub-heads in various demands was introduced, which continued upto 1994-95.

Identification and Declaration of Areas as Backward:

The objective criteria for the identification of backward areas in Himachal Pradesh for declaring any area as backward is as under:-

Sr. No.	Criteria	Weightage
1	2	3
1.	Remoteness and Inaccessibility :	
(a)	The geographical centre of the area under consideration should be at least 15 Km. away from the main motorable road.	25
2.	Demographic Indicators :	
(a)	The percentage of Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribe population in the area under consideration should be 25 percent or more.	15
(b)	Average density of population per Sq. Km. should be 25 or less	5
(c)	Ninety percent of the total workers population in the area under consideration should be workers engaged in the primary occupation like Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, etc.	5
(d)	The percentage of school going children in 6-14 years age-group in the area under consideration should not exceed 20 percent.	10
3.	Infrastructural Indicators :	
(a)	The percentage of scarcity villages with reference to drinking water should be 60 percent or more.	10
(b)	The percentage of electrified villages to total should be 25 percent or less.	8
(c)	The number of health institution in the area should not exceed one.	8
(d)	The area under consideration should not be served by a bank branch as per RBI norms.	5
(e)	There should be no veterinary institution in the area	5
4.	Agricultural Indicators:	
(a)	The average holding size in the area under consideration should be one hectare or below.	3
(b)	The percentage of cropped area under major cereals (Wheat, Maize and Rice) or remunerative cash crops like potato, apple, tea, etc. to the gross cropped area should not exceed 50 percent.	1
	Total	100

With the help of these indicators, the identification process proceeds as under:

- (i) The scoring of indicators is done on an absolute basis and the qualifying score for declaring an area as backward has been kept at 60 percent;
- (ii) The unit for declaration of an area as backward would be as compact as possible for administrative purposes and the smallest unit to be considered for this purpose is the Panchayat circle.

During the year 1995-96, Government of Himachal Pradesh framed a comprehensive policy for backward areas ; the Salient features of which are as follows:-

Implementation Mechanism of Backward Area Sub-Plan:

1. Backward Area Sub Plan is operational in ten districts of the State (except tribal areas). Tribal areas are being taken care of under separate Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP). The Backward Area Sub Plan comprises of three categories viz:-

(a) Backward Blocks: All Blocks having 50% or more panchayats notified as backward are declared as “**Backward Blocks**”.

(b) Contiguous Pockets: Group of five or more than five Backward Panchayats forming a contiguous geographical area are called “**Contiguous Pockets**”.

(c) Dispersed Panchayats: The panchayats other than those mentioned in (a) and (b) above, are called “**Dispersed Panchayats**”

2. Earmarking of the sectoral outlays is done for the following sectors/heads of development under Demand No. 15:-

1. Agriculture.
2. Soil Conservation (Agriculture).
3. Horticulture.
4. Minor Irrigation.
5. Animal Husbandry.
6. Forestry .
7. Village and Small Scale Industries.
8. Rural Roads & Bridges.
9. Elementary Education.
10. General Education other than University Education.
11. Rural Health
12. Ayurveda
13. Rural Water Supply.

3. Sectors covered under the beneficiaries oriented planning include Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Village and Small Industries and incentive schemes under the Education sector.
4. The outlays earmarked for the Backward Area Sub Plan under various functional major heads, are budgeted under Demand No. 15 in accordance with the sectoral ear-markings.
5. The Backward Area Sub-Plan is administered through the Deputy Commissioners. Deputy Commissioners have been declared as controlling officers for the allocation of funds under this Sub-Plan. All the District Planning Officers have been declared DDOs for all the Capital heads under Sub Plan and DDOs of the concerned departments in the districts operate only revenue heads under the Sub Plan. District Planning Officer helps the Deputy Commissioner in implementation of the various aspects of the Sub Plan and District Planning Officer is responsible for physical and financial monitoring of all schemes under the Sub Plan.
6. District Planning, Development and 20 Point Programme Review Committees (DPDCs) have been authorized for formulation, implementation, monitoring and review of the schemes under Backward Area Sub-Plan.
7. District Planning, Development and 20 Point Programme Review Committees (DPDCs) have also been authorized to make departmental/ inter- Sectoral diversion of approved Budget from one sector to another Sector/ Scheme, keeping in view the specific needs of the area for undertaking infrastructural development. Therefore, complete and absolute freedom has been given to the DPDCs which can direct the concerned department(s) and get such scheme(s) executed through the locally available infrastructure.
8. Generally the implementing agencies are the concerned line departments. However, in exceptional circumstances the District Level Planning, Development and Twenty Point Programme Review Committee may decide to assign implementation to other agencies, depending upon the exigency of a particular situation.
9. To facilitate the quick execution of the schemes, concerned Deputy Commissioner of the district has been authorized to accord administrative approval and expenditure sanction for all the schemes which hither to rested with the concerned Administrative Secretaries / Heads of departments. Thus, absolute, decentralization of powers has been made through this concept.
10. Further, it has been decided by the State Government that from the year 2008-09, the salary liability of the staff under BASP in respect of all the concerned departments including Health and Ayurveda would be shifted to Non -Plan, Thus, the plan funds earmarked under this Sub-Plan are only for capital work/ developmental activities.
11. To regulate and avoid any abnormal fluctuations in the expenditure under

BASP, the State Government has issued instructions during 2001 to spend the budget in the following controlled manner:-

1 st Quarter	25%
2 nd Quarter	40%
3 rd Quarter	25%
4 th Quarter	10%

12. The quarterly budget authorization under BASP to the districts is also made on the above mentioned criteria.
13. A total number of 559 Gram Panchayats out of 3226 Panchayats in the State have been declared as Backward Panchayats in Himachal Pradesh. District-wise break-up of these backward Panchayats is as under :

District wise breakup of Backward Panchayats:-

Sr. No.	Name of District	Total No. of Panchayats in H.P.	Total No. of Panchayats Declared as Backward
1.	2.	3.	4.
1.	Bilaspur	151	15
2.	Chamba	283	159
3.	Hamirpur	229	13
4.	Kangra	748	17
5.	Kullu	204	79
6.	Mandi	469	161
7.	Shimla	363	83
8.	Sirmour	228	26
9.	Solan	211	3
10.	Una	234	3
11.	Kinnaur	65	-
12.	Lahaul & Spiti	41	-
	Total	3226	559

14. On the basis of new policy of Backward Area Sub-Plan. The Backward declared panchayats were restructured into; (a) **Backward Blocks** (B) **Contiguous and** (C) **Dispersed Panchayats.**¹

¹PLG -F (BASP) 1-1/95 dated 16th June, 1995

15. Maintenance provision for illustrative works, which are undertaken under BASP is made. Instruction letter in this regard, was circulated to all Deputy Commissioners.²

Vide following notifications addition/deletion/correction of some panchayats have been made:-

Sr. No	Notification No. and date	Name of District	Name of Block	Name of Panchayat
1	2	3	4	5
1	PLG -F (BASP) 1-1/95 Dated 20 th July,1995	Kullu	1. Banjar	1. Masiar (Bathar)
2	PLG -F (BASP) 1-1/95 Dated 8 th September, 1995	Shimla	1. Mashobra	1. Nehera
		Mandi	1. Sunder- Nagar	1. Samon 2. Tihri
3	Yojana (BASP) 1-1/95 Dated 1 st December,1995	Shimla	1. Mashobra	1. Ogali
4	Yojana (BASP) 1-1/96-97 Dated 6 th January,1997	Mandi	1. Dharampur	1. Kun
5	Yojana (BASP) 1-7/95-I- Mandi Dated 19 th July, 2004	Kullu	1. Banjar 2. Kullu	1. DeoriDhar 1. Danogi
		Bilaspur	1. Jhanduta	1. Hundia 2. BhadoliKalan
		Mandi	1. Sadar	1. Tihri
			2. Chontara	1. Khuddi
			3. Saraj	1. Kashod 2. Kuklah 3. Murah 4. Kau
			4. Drang	1. Dharat Bangla 2. Tarswan
			5. Dharampur	1. Bhur 2. Bhadehar
			6. Karsog	1. Marhara 2. Barorohanda
Chamba	1. Tisa	1. Tapa 2. Khajua		
	2. Chamba	1. Kaila		

²PLG (BASP) 1-1/2004-05-MLA Proceedings Dated 14th September 2004

		Shimla	1. Rampur	1. Lalsa
			2. Chohara	1. Masli
			3. Chopal	1. Dhanat 2. Tailor
6	Yojana (BASP) 1-7/95-II-Mandi Dated 20 th December, 2006	Chamba	1. Tisa	1. Kareri 2. Junwas 3. Sapdoth
			2. Salooni	1. Chinh
			3. Mehla	1. Kuthed (Kulina) 2. Athluei 3. Chari (Chari Upper)
		Kullu	1. Ani	1. Fanoti 2. Munddal 3. Sheeli 4. Pokhari
			2. Nirmand	1. Tawar
		Mandi	1. Sadar	1. Mehani
			2. Drang	1. Siyun 2. Gwali 3. Sanwad 4. Shilag 5. Bhadwahan 6. Kas 7. Kadhar
			3. Chountra	1. Tryembli
			4. Dharampur	1. Khanod 2. Chountra
			5. Karsog	1. Belar (Dhar)
			6. Seraj	1. Bung 2. Dhar (DharJarol) 3. Bung(Jahalgad) 4. Khouli 5. Bahal(Bahalidhar) 6. Jaishla

			7. Sunder-Nagar	1. Jaral
		Shimla	1. Rampur	1. Kayao
			2. Chhohara	1. Bamfad 2. Kulgaon 3. Jiskoon 4. Mayla(Deudi) 5. Dhandarwari
			3. Chopal	1. Bhandal(Kaflah)
		Solan	1. Dharampur	1. Narayani
7	PLG(BASP)/2012-13(Misc)Dated: 30 th March, 2013	Solan	1. Dharampur	1. Banasar 2. Pratha 3. Naraini
			2. Kunihar	1. Mangal
		Sirmour	1. Paonta Sahib	1. Palhori
8	PLG(BASP)/2012-13(Misc)Dated: 14 th June, 2016	Sirmour	1. Paonta Sahib	1. Palhori

Balichowki block in District Mandi has been declared as backward block.³

³PLG (BASP)2018-19 dated 24th January, 2019