

Backward Area Sub-Plan

Himachal Pradesh Government is concerned about the need to remove the micro level regional disparities/imbbalances in development in the State. With this view, identification of certain areas as backward on the basis of certain criteria was started during the Fourth Five Year Plan (1969-74). This process gave birth to the formulation of Backward AreaSub-Plan to develop the backward areas.

Objectives

- To reduce regional disparities
- To evolve suitable policy for the development of Backward Areas
- Decentralization of Planning process
- To ensure people's participation in planning & decision making
- Providing better coordination and integration of development programme
- Effective mobilization of resources at district level
- More powers to people at local level
- Evolving effective decision making system at District level

Criteria for declaring Panchayats as Backward

A set of socio-economic indicators are analyzed for determining the backwardness of a Panchayat.

These indicators along with the weights assigned to them are as follows:-

Sr. No.	Indicator	Weightage
1	Remoteness & Inaccessibility	25
2	Demographic	35
3	Infrastructural	36
4	Agricultural	4
Total		100

Any Panchayat scoring 60 or more than 60 points on an absolute basis based on the above weights assigned to various indicators becomes eligible for being declared as backward

Policy

- On the recommendations of various committees, a comprehensive policy for implementation of the Backward Area Sub Plan was formulated. Its main features are as under:
- Backward Areas comprise of three categories:-
 - Backward Blocks
 - Contiguous Panchayats
 - Dispersed Panchayats
- Beneficiaries, Incentive & Infrastructural Development oriented approaches introduced
- A separate Demand for Grants No. 15 introduced from the year 2001-02.
- Deputy Commissioners declared as controlling officers
- District Planning Officers as DDOs for capital heads under the sub plan
- DPDC of the concerned district as formulating, monitoring and review agency at the district level
- Funds allocated to districts in proportion of the total number of Backward Panchayats in the district

District wise number of Backward Panchayats

Sr. No.	District	Declared Backward Panchayats
1.	Bilaspur	15
2.	Chamba	159
3.	Hamirpur	13
4.	Kangra	17
5.	Kullu	79
6.	Mandi	161
7.	Shimla	83
8.	Sirmour	26
9.	Solan	3
10.	Una	3
Total		559

Budget Authorization

Special Quarterly Budget Authorization Pattern has been introduced by the State Government for the sub plan due to the difficult geographical conditions and limited working Season in Backward Areas. The quarterly budget authorization under BASP is as under:-

Quarter	Budget Authorization (% age)
1 st	25
2 nd	40
3 rd	25
4 th	10
Total	100