

CHAPTER - 9

Backward Area Sub-Plan

9.1 Recognizing the need for reducing and removing economic disparities between different regions in the country and for accelerated development of backward areas, the identification of backward areas was taken up way back during the Fourth Five Year Plan (1969-74) and efforts were made to identify remote and inaccessible areas which remained neglected due to their inaccessibility and difficult geographical and harsh climatic conditions. The basic criteria decided for this purpose was remoteness, inaccessibility, socio-economic development and infrastructural backwardness. This process gave birth to the formulation of Sub Plan for these backward areas 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.

9.2 The State Govt. issued a Notification declaring 321 Panchayats as backward vide notification No. PLG-FC (F)3-55/82 dated 10-1-1986. After this identification, exclusive earmarking in the budget under separate sub heads in various demands was introduced, which continued up to 1994-95. For the overall development of backward areas, the Government of Himachal Pradesh framed a comprehensive policy during the year 1995-96. A separate Sub Plan for the development of Backward Areas in the State came into existence because of this policy of the State Government.

Backward Area Sub-Plan mainly consists of the following components:-

1. Identification and declaration of areas as backward;
2. Socio-Economic Development of areas declared as backward through the mechanism / intervention of BASP; and
3. Periodic review of areas declared as backward as per the decision of the State Government.

9.3 Based on the policy adopted during the year 1995-96 the total number of backward panchayats identified in the state was 489 as on 16th July, 2004. As a result of re-organizing of panchayats in the State, 23 more panchayats were added in the list of backward panchayats in the year 2004. Again 39 more panchayats were added in the year 2006, increasing the total number of backward panchayats to 551.

(A) Implementation Mechanism of Backward Area Sub-Plan:

1. Backward Area Sub Plan is operational in ten districts of the State (except tribal districts). 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. All such Panchayats which have been carved out from the existing notified Backward Panchayats are also declared as Backward. The outlays earmarked for the Backward Area Sub –Plan under various functional major heads are budgeted under Demand No.-15-Planning and Backward Area Sub-Plan. Earmarking of the sectoral outlays is done for the following thirteen heads of development:-

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.
11. Rural Health (Allopathy)
12. Ayurveda.
13. Rural Water Supply.

3. The “Backward Area Sub-Plan” is administered through the Deputy Commissioners. Deputy Commissioners have been declared as controlling officers for this Sub-Plan. All the District Planning Officers have been declared as DDOs for all the Capital heads. DDOs of the

concerned departments in the districts operate only revenue heads under the Sub Plan. The District Planning Officer helps the Deputy Commissioner in implementation, physical & financial monitoring of all schemes under the Sub-Plan.

4. 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. 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 scheme(s) executed through the locally available infrastructure.
5. 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 hitherto rested with the concerned Administrative Secretaries / Head of Departments. Thus, absolute decentralization of powers have been given to DPDCs through this concept.
6. During the year 2008-09, all the revenue liability of departments falling under BASP have been provided in the Non-Plan side of Demand No.-15 under BASP. Thus, the plan funds earmarked under this Sub-Plan are only for capital works.
7. To regulate and avoid any abnormal fluctuations in the expenditure under BASP, the State Government has issued instructions during 2001 to spend the budget of BASP in the following controlled manner:-

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

8. The quarterly budget authorization under BASP to the districts is made on the above mentioned criteria. The budget allocation to the districts is made in proportion to the number of declared Backward Panchayats of the district.

(B) Area under Backward Area Sub-Plan:-

There are eight backward declared blocks in the State. The district wise detail is given below:-

District-wise detail of Backward Blocks

Sr.No.	District	Name of Backward Block
1	2	3
1	Chamba	1. Tissa 2. Salooni 3. Mehla
2	Kullu	1. Ani 2. Nirmand
3	Mandi	1. Darang 2. Seraj
4	Shimla	1. Chhohara
Total :		8

As stated earlier, a total number of 551 Gram Panchayats out of 3243 Panchayats in the State have been declared as Backward Panchayats. The district-wise break-up of these backward panchayats is as under:-

District-wise break-up of Backward Panchayats

District	Total No. of Panchayats	Total No. of Panchayats Declared Backward
1. Bilaspur	151	15
2. Chamba	283	159
3. Hamirpur	229	13
4. Kangra	760	17
5. Kullu	204	79
6. Mandi	473	149
7. Shimla	363	83
8. Sirmaur	228	26
9. Solan	211	7
10. Una	235	3
11. Kinnaur*	65	-
12. Lahaul & Spiti*	41	-
Total:	3243	551

* Tribal areas are being taken care of under separate Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP).

(C) Development Schemes under BASP

During Eleventh Plan (2007-2012), the following schemes/programmes were implemented for the development of Backward Area Sub Plan:-

- Construction of Seed store and other storage building for Agriculture and Horticulture purpose.
- Construction of Veterinary Hospitals and Animal Health Building.
- Construction of Surface Water Supply and Lift Irrigation Schemes.
- Provision of Capital outlay for Village and Small Industries.
- Construction of Link Roads & Bridges.
- Construction of School Buildings for Primary & Secondary Education Institutions.
- Construction of Rural Health Centres, Primary Health Centres and Civil Dispensaries.
- Construction of Ayurvedic Dispensaries.
- Providing Water Supply and Sanitation, Rural Water Supply Schemes in various Districts, C/o Hand Pumps and Remodeling of old Water Supply Schemes.
- Construction of Forests Huts in Rural Areas.

(D) Budget Provision

During the Eleventh Plan (2007-2012), a provision of ₹ 243.34 crore was kept and against this, the expenditure of ₹ 242.65 crore was incurred. The budgetary allocation from 2007-2008 onwards has been as under: -

(₹in Crore)		
Year	Outlay	Expenditure
11 th Plan		
2007-08	51.09	50.75
2008-09	51.29	51.10
2009-10	57.96	57.95
2010-11	63.00	62.85
2011-12	20.00	20.00
Total (11 th Plan)	243.34	242.65

12th Five Year Plan

For the 12th Five Year Plan (2012-2017), an outlay of ₹ 135.00 Crore has been proposed under BASP, the head of development wise details of which is given below:-

(₹ in Crore)

Sr.No.	Head of Development	Outlay proposed for 12 th Five year Plan
1.	2	3
1.	Agriculture	1.01
2.	Horticulture	1.01
3.	Soil Conservation	1.82
4.	Animal Husbandry	0.67
5..	Forests	5.34
6.	Minor Irrigation	0.47
7.	Village & Small Scale Industry	1.15
8..	Roads& Bridges	33.41
9..	Elementary Education	11.14
10.	Secondary Education	22.27
11.	Health (Allopathy)	26.32
12	Ayurveda	2.02
13	Rural Water Supply	28.37
	Total	135.00

For the Annual Plan 2012-13 and outlay of ₹ 35.00 crore was kept which has been estimated to be completely utilized. For the Annual Plan 2013-14 a provision of ₹ 37.00 crore has been kept for the implementation of Backward Area Sub Plan.