

Development of Bundelkhand

Bundelkhand region is spread in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. Development works are going on there funded by the Central Government. In Madhya Pradesh there are six Bundelkhandi districts - Datia, Chhattarpur, Panna, Damoh, Tikamgarh and Sagar. For these the Centre has already sanctioned Rs 3760 crore. Out of this the balance amount of Rs 2160 crore would be spent in the next three years. The basic principle of development is that if there is infrastructure, development would occur. Towns and cities came up only there where there are rivers, lakes or other sources of water. Land, water and electricity are most necessary to develop any area.

The main problem faced by the Bundelkhand region is continuous shortage of rainfall. Drought is common in this area due to which farming is severely affected. As there are no other employment opportunities the populace shifts to green pastures. During the last four years shortage of rainfall in this region is up to 60 per cent. 80 per cent of the population depends on farming for livelihood. Out of this 60 per cent are small farmers. In the region inside the state, density of population is 184 persons per sq km. As there are no irrigation facilities the whole population depends on rainfall.

In this scenario the Central Government has given special status for agriculture development in the region. Maximum importance is given to irrigation in the region. Shortage of water is one of the gravest problems faced here. Hence water conservation management, veterinary, horticulture, agriculture, irrigation and forest development would help the region to come out of the present poverty situation. Congress General Secretary Rahul Gandhi toured the whole region and understood the difficulties faced by the people. Due to his initiative the Central Government speeded up the development projects. The land is very fertile and with proper irrigation facilities, there would be big boost in food-grains production. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan is also very alert about the region. Recently at a high-level meeting he reviewed the works going on there. What is needed is the money should be spent more on development and minimum on administrative expenses.