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96 taluks still remain backward in Karnataka

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Despite ₹27,346.32 crore being spent on backward taluks under the Special Development Plan (SDP) over the Past 12 years, the socio-economic conditions and infrastructure development remain below par in 96 taluks of the State.

Budgetary and additional funding of ₹37,124.35 crore was given to 114 backward taluks under the SDP since 2007-08. Out of this, ₹27,346.32 crore has been spent, according to official sources. The backward taluks had been identified by the D.M. Nanjundappa committee on regional imbalance. During a review meeting chaired by K.C. Narayana Gowda, Minister for Planning and Statistics, it was revealed that 29 taluks still remained "most backward" - eight in Bengaluru division, three in Kalaburagi

division, and 18 in Belagavi region. While 24 taluks have remained "more backward", 43 are "backward."

Lack of will to undertake development is cited as one of the major reasons for the poor socio-economic development in the 96 taluks.

Ahead of the State Budget, the Minister reviewed the progress under the SDP and said these taluks were lagging behind in having schools, colleges, libraries, classrooms, labs, computers, and other essentials for quality education.

Official sources said funds had not been released as per the plan to priority sectors. The quantum of funds allocated to education was 5%, while it was 5% for health, 1.6% for women and child development, 6.05% for agriculture, and 0.89% for self-employment/business, sources added.