

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PLANNING

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 467
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.02.2023

DEVELOPMENTAL WORKS IN THE BACKWARD AREAS OF ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS

467 # SHRI SATISH CHANDRA DUBEY:

Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to change the method of planning and execution of development works in the backward areas of aspirational districts;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, whether Government is aware that the pace of implementation of the development works being executed by Government in the aspirational districts is very slow; and
- (d) whether Government is planning to monitor it directly from its own level?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION; MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS

(RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

- (a) & (b) No Sir. At present the Aspirational Districts Programme provides a monitoring framework to assist the district administration to assess the progress made and identify gaps remaining. This is also meant to assist the district in planning and execution of all its works, particularly in the focus areas of the programme. The programme focuses on 49 indicators across sectors of health, nutrition, school education, agriculture and water resource management, financial inclusion, skill development and basic infrastructure. Every month, districts register their progress in key performance indicators of these sectors and are ranked on the basis of performance, and allocated a nominal performance grant. Based on the performance grant as mentioned above, districts undertake specific projects to address critical needs felt by them. This robust monitoring and ranking of the districts instils them with a sense of competition which results in rapid improvement. In addition, the relatively underdeveloped blocks within aspirational districts have been identified and included within the larger nation-wide Aspirational Blocks Programme launched on January 07, 2023.

(c) While Aspirational Districts are relatively remote and challenging districts, it is not a fact that the implementation of developmental works is slow. As data are monitored every month by the Districts, they have shown significant progress. District wise detail of progress made under this programme is available in public domain in the webportal (www.championsofchange.gov.in).

(d) No Sir. The Aspirational Districts Programme is designed to assist the State Government to rapidly transform the selected Aspirational Districts. It is monitored by the Districts and further handheld by the State and Central Governments. As stated under answer (c) above, placing the web portal in public domain assists the district administration and the States concerned to monitor the progress made under this programme.
