

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1957
ANSWERED ON-06/08/2025

Educationally backward districts

1957 **Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu:**

Will the Minister of *Education* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has identified educationally backward districts in the country particularly in Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (SCs & STs) dominated areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and district-wise, including Tamil Nadu;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the steps taken by Government for the development of educationally backward districts during the last five years and the current year: and
- (e) the details of the targets fixed and achieved in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (c): The Department of School Education and Literacy is focused on universal access to schooling for all from pre-primary to Class XII through the Integrated Centrally Sponsored Scheme for School Education namely Samagra Shiksha launched with effect from the year 2018-19. Samagra Shiksha scheme is aligned with the recommendations of NEP 2020 and ensures that all children have access to quality education within an equitable and inclusive classroom environment which takes care of their diverse background, multilingual needs, and different academic abilities and make them active participants in the learning process.

This Department had identified Educationally Backward Blocks (EBB) in States/UTs, where the female rural literacy rate was below the national average. Under the erstwhile Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) were sanctioned in EBB as residential schools at upper primary level for girls belonging to disadvantaged groups such as SC, ST, OBC, Minority and Below Poverty Line (BPL).

However, with the launch of the Aspirational Districts Programme by NITI Aayog in January 2018 to improve the social outcomes of the backward districts, the programs of the government are now aligned to fill in the infrastructure and learning gaps in the Aspirational Districts of the country. There are 112 Aspirational Districts, across 26 States and 1 Union Territory including

two districts (Virudhunagar & Ramanathapuram) in Tamil Nadu. State wise list of Aspirational Districts is given in **Annexure-I**.

Further, The Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP) was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on January 7, 2023, during the 2nd National Conference of Chief Secretaries. This transformational programme focuses on improving governance to enhance the quality of life of citizens in the most difficult and underdeveloped blocks of India by converging existing schemes, defining outcomes, and monitoring them on a constant basis. The ABP is built on the noteworthy success of the government's flagship Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) launched in 2018 across 112 under-developed districts of India.

(d) & (e): The government through the Samagra Shiksha (SSA) scheme supports States and UTs in strengthening their existing government and govt aided schools, creation and augmentation of infrastructure facilities based on the gaps determined from Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE+) and proposals received from respective State/ Union Territory. The need for schools and also the infrastructural facilities in schools are worked out every year by the respective State/Union Territory on incremental basis depending on their need and priority and reflected in their Annual Work Plan & Budget (AWP&B). These plans are then appraised and approved/estimated by the Project Approval Board (PAB) in the Department of School Education & Literacy in consultation with the States and Union Territories. Further, special focus for SC/ST/EBBs is provided through the following schemes under SSA:

- i. **Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs):** Under Samagra Shiksha, there is a provision of KGBVs which are residential schools from Class VI to XII for girls belonging to disadvantaged groups such as SC, ST, OBC, Minority and Below Poverty Line (BPL). The KGBVs are set up in Educationally Backward Blocks. The objective behind establishing KGBVs is to ensure access and quality education to girls from disadvantaged groups by setting up residential schools and to reduce gender gaps at all levels of school education. As on 04.08.2025, total 5138 KGBVs including 105 in Tamil Nadu are functional with enrolment of 7,11,505 girls (including 1,83,440 ST girls and 1,93,302 SC girls).
- ii. **Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Awasiya Vidyalayas (NSCBVs)-** Samagra Shiksha supports the provision of residential facilities under the intervention entitled NSCBVs, with the primary purpose of reaching out to girls, urban deprived and other disadvantaged children and creating equitable access to school education in remote, sparsely populated and difficult to reach areas, hilly terrains, areas affected by LWE, large uninhabited areas with natural barriers like forests, waterways, rivers, etc.
- iii. **Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN)** which aims to saturate Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) households and habitations with basic facilities such as safe housing, clean drinking water and sanitation, improved access to education, health and nutrition, road and telecom connectivity, electrification of unelectrified households and sustainable livelihood opportunities in a mission mode. Ministry of Education is one of the participating Ministries in the Abhiyan and PM-JANMAN is being implemented in convergence with Samagra Shiksha Scheme. As on 04.08.2025, total 492 hostels in PM-JANMAN including 08 in Tamil Nadu, have been sanctioned.
- iv. **Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JGUA):** It aims at saturation of more than 63,000 tribal majority villages and tribal villages in Aspirational Districts with specified

interventions. Ministry of Education, Department of School Education & Literacy (DoSE&L) is one of the participating Ministries in the Abhiyan and that DAJGUA is being implemented in convergence with Samagra Shiksha Scheme of this Department. So far, DoSEL has approved 692 Hostels under DA-JGUA.

v. RTE Entitlement-

Provision of Free Uniform: Samagra Shiksha provides support for two sets of uniform to all girls, SC, ST children and Below Poverty Line (BPL) children at an average cost of Rs. 600/- per child per annum, wherever State Governments have incorporated the provision of school uniforms as a child entitlement in their State RTE Rules.

Besides, the Department is also implementing schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI), to provide adequate school infrastructure (including digital), teaching learning material, teacher support, PM POSHAN scheme (Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman) for providing nutrition through mid-day meals in schools, National Means cum Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS)- merit scholarship for EWS students so as to improve the learning outcomes of all students in all States and UTs, with special focus on aspirational districts. Separately, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is implementing the **Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY)** which is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, which consist of three components namely Adarsh Gram, Grant-In-Aid and Hostel. One of its components namely 'Hostel' aims at providing central assistance for construction of new Hostel buildings for Scheduled Castes (SC) Students (separately for Boys and Girls). The hostels are taken up for construction based on the proposals received from respective State Governments/Central Universities.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (C) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1957 ANSWERED ON 06.08.2025 ASKED BY DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU, HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT REGARDING EDUCATIONALLY BACKWARD DISTRICTS.

List of 112 Aspirational Districts

S. No.	State	District
1	Andhra Pradesh	Alluri Sitharamaraju
2	Andhra Pradesh	Parvathipuram Manyam
3	Andhra Pradesh	Y.S.R.
4	Arunachal Pradesh	Namsai
5	Assam	Goalpara
6	Assam	Barpeta
7	Assam	Hailakandi
8	Assam	Baksa
9	Assam	Darrang
10	Assam	Udalguri
11	Assam	Dhubri
12	Bihar	Sitamarhi
13	Bihar	Araria
14	Bihar	Purnia
15	Bihar	Katihar
16	Bihar	Muzaffarpur
17	Bihar	Begusarai
18	Bihar	Khagaria
19	Bihar	Banka
20	Bihar	Sheikhpura
21	Bihar	Aurangabad
22	Bihar	Gaya
23	Bihar	Nawada
24	Bihar	Jamui
25	Chhattisgarh	Korba
26	Chhattisgarh	Rajnandgaon
27	Chhattisgarh	Mahasamund
28	Chhattisgarh	Kanker
29	Chhattisgarh	Narayanpur
30	Chhattisgarh	Dantewada
31	Chhattisgarh	Bijapur
32	Chhattisgarh	Bastar
33	Chhattisgarh	Kondagaon

S. No.	State	District
34	Chhattisgarh	Sukma
35	Gujarat	Dahod
36	Gujarat	Narmada
37	Haryana	Mewat
38	Himachal Pradesh	Chamba
39	UT of Jammu & Kashmir	Kupwara
40	UT of Jammu & Kashmir	Baramulla
41	Jharkhand	Garhwa
42	Jharkhand	Chatra
43	Jharkhand	Giridih
44	Jharkhand	Godda
45	Jharkhand	Sahibganj
46	Jharkhand	Pakur
47	Jharkhand	Bokaro
48	Jharkhand	Lohardaga
49	Jharkhand	Purbi Singhbhum
50	Jharkhand	Palamu
51	Jharkhand	Latehar
52	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh
53	Jharkhand	Ramgarh
54	Jharkhand	Dumka
55	Jharkhand	Ranchi
56	Jharkhand	Khunti
57	Jharkhand	Gumla
58	Jharkhand	Simdega
59	Jharkhand	Pashchimi Singhbhum
60	Karnataka	Raichur
61	Karnataka	Yadgir
62	Kerala	Wayanad
63	Madhya Pradesh	Chhatarpur
64	Madhya Pradesh	Damoh
65	Madhya Pradesh	Barwani
66	Madhya Pradesh	Rajgarh
67	Madhya Pradesh	Vidisha
68	Madhya Pradesh	Guna
69	Madhya Pradesh	Singrauli
70	Madhya Pradesh	Khandwa
71	Maharashtra	Nandurbar
72	Maharashtra	Washim
73	Maharashtra	Gadchiroli
74	Maharashtra	Osmanabad
75	Manipur	Chandel

S. No.	State	District
76	Meghalaya	Ribhoi
77	Mizoram	Mamit
78	Nagaland	Kiphire
79	Odisha	Dhenkanal
80	Odisha	Gajapati
81	Odisha	Kandhamal
82	Odisha	Balangir
83	Odisha	Kalahandi
84	Odisha	Rayagada
85	Odisha	Koraput
86	Odisha	Malkangiri
87	Odisha	Nabarangpur
88	Odisha	Nuapada
89	Punjab	Moga
90	Punjab	Firozpur
91	Rajasthan	Dholpur
92	Rajasthan	Karauli
93	Rajasthan	Jaisalmer
94	Rajasthan	Sirohi
95	Rajasthan	Baran
96	Sikkim	Soreng
97	Tamil Nadu	Virudhunagar
98	Tamil Nadu	Ramanathapuram
99	Telangana	Asifabad
100	Telangana	Bhoopalapally
101	Telangana	Bhadradi-Kothagudem
102	Tripura	Dhalai
103	Uttar Pradesh	Chitrakoot
104	Uttar Pradesh	Fatehpur
105	Uttar Pradesh	Bahraich
106	Uttar Pradesh	Shrawasti
107	Uttar Pradesh	Balrampur
108	Uttar Pradesh	Siddharthnagar
109	Uttar Pradesh	Chandauli
110	Uttar Pradesh	Sonbhadra
111	Uttarakhand	Udham Singh Nagar
112	Uttarakhand	Haridwar