

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PLANNING

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2860
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.08.2025

INTEGRATION OF ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS AND BLOCKS WITH INDUSTRIAL & DIGITAL ECONOMY

2860 SMT. SANGEETA YADAV:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has developed a roadmap or policy framework to integrate Aspirational Districts and Aspirational Blocks into industrial and digital economy of the country, and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) specific initiatives undertaken to promote digital infrastructure, skilling, entrepreneurship, and industrial investment in these regions;
- (c) the mechanism to monitor and evaluate industrial and digital progress of these districts and blocks vis-à-vis country's development goals; and
- (d) the steps being taken to ensure inclusive participation of local communities, especially women, youth, and marginalized sections, in this transformation?

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 CULTURE

(RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

- (a) & (b) The Industrial and Digital economy is an essential part of the overall development of the entire country including Aspirational Districts and Aspirational Blocks. Several steps have been taken up for providing high bandwidth capacity internet/broadband connectivity and mobile services to remote & rural villages and islands in the country, including the Aspirational Districts and Aspirational Blocks that currently lack the coverage. This is being done with funding from Digital Bharat Nidhi (DBN) [erstwhile Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)] of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT).

Some of the projects have already been completed and many are under implementation. Details of the major projects are as follows:

- i. **The BharatNet Project** is being implemented in a phased manner to provide broadband connectivity to all Gram Panchayats (GPs) and villages. The infrastructure created is a national asset and is available on a non-discriminatory basis to service providers for delivering broadband services like FTTH (Fibre to the Home) connections, leased lines, dark fibre, and mobile tower backhaul etc. As of June 2025, a total of 2,14,325 GPs has been made service-ready under the BharatNet project.
- ii. For providing **high-speed internet/data and mobile services** in uncovered remote and rural areas, several targeted schemes have been implemented by DoT. These include the Comprehensive Telecom Development Plans (CTDP) for Mobile connectivity in the North Eastern Region and Islands (Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep), Schemes for Mobile services in the Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas, Aspirational Districts, border villages, and the 4G Saturation Scheme covering all uncovered villages. The 4G saturation project, with a total cost of ₹26,316 crore, is under implementation. As of June 2025, a total of 21,748 mobile towers have been commissioned under various Government-funded mobile projects.
- iii. Commissioning of **submarine optical fiber cable** between Chennai and Andaman & Nicobar Islands (2312 km) for providing high-speed internet/data connectivity to Andaman & Nicobar Islands. These optical fiber cable projects have facilitated faster roll-out of fixed-line broadband/internet services, mobile services (4G/5G), and other high-speed data services in the islands.
- iv. Skill development is an important component of the overall monitoring framework of the Aspirational District Programme. Under the Government's Skill India Mission (SIM) various skilling, re-skilling and up-skill trainings are being provided through an extensive network of skill development centres under various schemes, viz. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) scheme, National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) and Craftsman Training Scheme (CTS) through Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), to all the sections of the society across the country, including Aspirational Districts. The details of person trained and training centres set up or engaged in Aspirational districts are attached at Annexure-I. Also, there are certain schemes of DPIIT (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade) aimed at promoting industrialisation that cover some of the aspirational districts, the details of which is attached at Annexure-II.

- (c) The Monitoring of the progress of all the Key Performance Indices (KPI) of Aspirational Districts and Blocks, including the key indicators related to Skill Development and Digital Infrastructure, is being done through the Champions of Change Dashboard, which can be publicly accessed at <https://championsofchange.gov.in/>.
- (d) To ensure the participation of local communities and local public representatives, Chintan Shivirs and Sankalp Saptah were organized at district/block levels in September 2023 under the Aspirational Blocks Programme.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) AND (b) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2860 FOR 18.08.2025 BY SMT. SANGEETA YADAV: REGARDING INTEGRATION OF ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS AND BLOCKS WITH INDUSTRIAL & DIGITAL ECONOMY

The details of persons trained under the above schemes of MSDE in Aspirational Districts are as under:

PMKVY (Since 2015-16 to 31.05.2025)	JSS (Since 2018-19 to 31.03.2025)	NAPS (Since 2018-19 to 31.05.2025)	ITI (Since 2018 to 2024)
17,45,879	6,08,427	1,81,252	10,13,732

Details of the Training Centers set up or engaged in Aspirational districts across the country are as under:

PMKVY 4.0 Centers	JSS Centers	NAPS Establishments	ITI (Session 2023-24)	
			Govt. ITIs	Pvt. ITIs
1,664	71	2,461	422	1,139

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) AND (b) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2860 FOR 18.08.2025 BY SMT. SANGEETA YADAV: REGARDING INTEGRATION OF ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS AND BLOCKS WITH INDUSTRIAL & DIGITAL ECONOMY

List of schemes of DPIIT aimed at promoting Industrialization:

- National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP): Udham Singh Nagar, Kadapa and Gaya in Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar respectively
- Uttar Poorva Transformative Industrialization Scheme (UNNATI) for North Eastern States: Namsai in Arunachal Pradesh, Baksa, Barpeta, Darrang, Dhubri, Goalpara, Hailakandi and Udalguri in Assam, Chandel in Manipur, Ribhoi in Meghalaya, Mamit in Mizoram, Soreng in Sikkim, Kiphire in Nagaland and Dhalai in Tripura.
- New Central Sector Scheme for Industrial Development of Jammu & Kashmir: Baramulla and Kupwara
- Industrial Development Scheme (IDS) 2021 for Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand: Chamba, Haridwar and Udham Singh Nagar
- Industrial Development Scheme (IDS) 2021 for UT of J&K and UT of Ladakh: Baramulla and Kupwara.
