

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PLANNING

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1906
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.03.2026

NON-PARTICIPATION OF WEST BENGAL IN ASPIRATIONAL BLOCKS PROGRAMME

1906 SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that the State of West Bengal is the only State which has not participated in the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP) launched by NITI Aayog;
- (b) number of Aspirational Blocks identified in the State along with their names and districts, as per the initial selection under the Programme;
- (c) reasons conveyed by the State Government of West Bengal, if any, for not implementing or participating in the Programme; and
- (d) number of letters, reminders or official communications issued by the Central Government or NITI Aayog to the State Government regarding participation in the Programme, year-wise?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS & 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) Yes Sir. The Government is aware that West Bengal is the only State which has not participated in the Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP) launched by NITI Aayog.
- (b) As per the initial selection of 500 blocks under the Aspirational Block Programme launched by NITI Aayog there are 29 blocks identified across 10 districts in West Bengal. The list of these blocks and the districts is attached at **Annexure**.
- (c) No reasons have been officially conveyed by the Government of West Bengal to NITI Aayog for not implementing or participating in the Programme.

- (d) NITI Aayog has made multiple efforts including formal correspondence from senior level to engage with the State Government of West Bengal so as to encourage participation in the Aspirational Blocks Programme.

ANNEXURE**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) of RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1906 FOR ANSWER ON 09.03.2026 REGARDING NON-PARTICIPATION OF WEST BENGAL IN ASPIRATIONAL BLOCKS PROGRAMME BY SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA**

S. NO.	STATE NAME	DISTRICT NAME	BLOCK NAME
1	West Bengal	24 Paraganas South	Magra Hat-2
2	West Bengal	24 Paraganas South	Thakurpukur Mahestola
3	West Bengal	Bankura	Indpur
4	West Bengal	Bankura	Khatra-1
5	West Bengal	Bankura	Onda
6	West Bengal	Birbhum	Khoyrasol
7	West Bengal	Birbhum	Mayureswar-1
8	West Bengal	Birbhum	Nanoor
9	West Bengal	Dinajpur Dakshin	Kumarganj
10	West Bengal	Dinajpur Uttar	Chopra
11	West Bengal	Dinajpur Uttar	Goalpokher-2
12	West Bengal	Dinajpur Uttar	Goalpokher-1
13	West Bengal	Dinajpur Uttar	Hemtabad
14	West Bengal	Dinajpur Uttar	Islampur
15	West Bengal	Dinajpur Uttar	Itahar
16	West Bengal	Maldah	Chanchal-1
17	West Bengal	Maldah	Habibpur
18	West Bengal	Maldah	Harishchandrapur-2
19	West Bengal	Jhargram	Binpur-1
20	West Bengal	Jhargram	Binpur-2
21	West Bengal	Jhargram	Gopiballavpur-2
22	West Bengal	Jhargram	Gopiballavpur-1
23	West Bengal	Medinipur West	Keshiary
24	West Bengal	Medinipur West	Salbani
25	West Bengal	Murshidabad	Bhagabangola-1
26	West Bengal	Murshidabad	Lalgola
27	West Bengal	Purulia	Balarampur
28	West Bengal	Purulia	Hura
29	West Bengal	Purulia	Kashipur