

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PLANNING

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1742
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.08.2026

NITI AAYOG'S ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS AND BLOCKS PROGRAMMES

1742. PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether NITI Aayog has measured the divergence in per-capita income between the poorest and richest States over the last decade and Bihar's position therein;
- (b) the specific instruments in the Viksit Bharat 2047 framework for accelerated convergence of lagging States, beyond Finance Commission devolution;
- (c) the outcome ranking of Bihar's 13 Aspirational Districts on health, nutrition and education indicators since inception; and
- (d) whether NITI Aayog has examined the case for a formal special assistance framework for low-income, high-population States whose demographic weight will drive the national workforce until 2047?

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) NITI Aayog does not measure the divergence in per capita income between the poorest and richest States.
- (b) & (c) The Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP), launched by the Government in January 2018, aims to quickly and effectively transform the country's most under-developed districts. The Programme is driven by the States and focuses on the principles of Convergence (of Central and State Government Schemes), Collaboration (of Central, State and District level functionaries), and Competition among districts through monthly delta rankings. The Programme promotes the spirit of cooperative and competitive federalism through a data-driven governance framework by monitoring incremental progress on 49 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) across five broad socio-economic themes, namely Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture & Water Resources, Financial Inclusion & Skill Development, and

Basic Infrastructure. Under the Programme, 13 districts of Bihar have been identified as Aspirational Districts. The outcome of the ranking of these 13 Aspirational Districts of Bihar on Health, Nutrition and Education indicators since the inception of the Programme is given at Annexure. The same is also available on the Champions of Change Portal (<https://championsofchange.gov.in>), which is publicly accessible.

(d) No such examination has been done by NITI Aayog.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) & (c) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1742 FOR 03.08.2026 BY PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA REGARDING NITI AAYOG'S ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS AND BLOCKS PROGRAMMES

Ranking of Aspirational Districts in Bihar under Health, Nutrition and Education Theme since Inception

(I) Health and Nutrition Theme

Sr. No.	District Name	Baseline Ranking (2018)	Current Ranking (March 2026)	Lifetime Top Rank	Lifetime Lowest Rank
1	Araria	34	111	3 in Sep-2022	111 in Mar-2026
2	Aurangabad	1	100	1 in Nov-2023	112 in Oct-2023
3	Banka	26	18	1 in Nov-2023	112 in Nov-2022
4	Begusarai	34	75	1 in Aug-2022	111 in Feb-2025
5	Gaya	97	8	2 in Dec-2022	112 in Jan-2022
6	Jamui	100	19	1 in Jan-2024	112 in Jun-2024
7	Katihar	21	26	1 in Feb-2022	112 in Jul-2023
8	Khagaria	11	70	1 in Aug-2023	112 in Oct-2021
9	Muzaffarpur	18	50	1 in Dec-2024	111 in Mar-2024
10	Nawada	19	106	1 in Dec-2021	111 in Feb-2020
11	Purnia	27	5	1 in Sep-2025	112 in Jun-2020
12	Sheikhpura	58	28	1 in May-2022	110 in Jun-2020
13	Sitamarhi	80	15	2 in Aug-2024	110 in Feb-2024

(II) Education Theme

Sr. No.	District Name	Baseline (2018)	Current Status (March 2026)	Lifetime Top Rank	Lifetime Lowest Rank
1	Araria	28	101	3 in Jul-2019	112 in Apr-2019
2	Aurangabad	31	5	1 in Nov-2023	112 in Mar-2025
3	Banka	76	90	1 in Nov-2020	104 in Jun-2022
4	Begusarai	7	2	1 in Oct-2024	112 in Jan-2024
5	Gaya	112	87	2 in Apr-2023	112 in Feb-2020
6	Jamui	23	96	1 in Jan-2024	113 in Jan-2019

7	Katihar	31	76	1 in Nov-2024	100 in Jun-2024
8	Khagaria	76	46	1 in Dec-2023	110 in Oct-2021
9	Muzaffarpur	51	83	1 in Jun-2025	111 in Feb-2021
10	Nawada	81	88	2 in Sep-2023	112 in Dec-2022
11	Purnia	31	74	2 in Feb-2023	112 in Sep-2024
12	Sheikhpura	103	3	1 in Feb-2023	112 in Oct-2024
13	Sitamarhi	9	19	1 in Aug-2023	112 in Jul-2023
