

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PLANNING

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2533**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.08.2026

**ASSESSMENT OF REGIONAL DISPARITIES**

2533. SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether NITI Aayog has conducted any assessment of regional disparities in economic growth, infrastructure and human development across States during the last five years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, including the State of Kerala's position on key development indicators;
- (c) whether Government proposes any targeted strategy or special assistance to address inter- State development disparities; and
- (d) the details of projects or initiatives recommended by NITI Aayog for Kerala during the last five years and their implementation status?

**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) & (b) NITI Aayog has developed the SDG India Index, which measures the progress of States and Union Territories on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) using the National Indicator Framework and data provided by the concerned Ministries/Departments of the Government of India. The SDG India Index presents the progress made by the States and Union Territories towards achieving the SDGs and promotes competitive and cooperative federalism. The latest edition, SDG India Index 2023-24, places Kerala in the Front Runner category with an overall score of 79. The report is available in the public domain. [https://www.niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2024-07/SDG\\_India\\_Index\\_2023-24.pdf](https://www.niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2024-07/SDG_India_Index_2023-24.pdf)

(c) The Government of India has been focusing on inclusive growth as reflected in its commitment to Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and has taken various steps to address inter-state development disparities. Government is implementing several schemes, both Central sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes, for reducing the poverty in the country. Some of the schemes aim to directly benefit the citizens through Direct Benefit transfer of resources/ money while others aim at creating enabling infrastructural provisions. These include Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar & Aajeevika Mission (Gramin), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), Deen Dayal Upadhyay – Gramin Kaushalya Yojana (DDU- GKY), Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs), National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), PM Street Vendor’s AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme, Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM), Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan-Dhan Yojana, Skill India, Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, Atal Pension Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, Stand Up India Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, Swachh Bharat Mission (Rural and Urban), etc.

(d) NITI Aayog launched the Aspirational District Programme (ADP) in 2018 and Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP) in 2023 based on convergence of Government Schemes, monitoring of key performance indicators and fostering competition between districts and blocks to ensure better delivery of services to the citizens. 1 district (Wayanad) and 9 blocks of Kerala are part of this programme. The performance of Aspirational Districts and Aspirational Blocks is reviewed regularly, and they are ranked based on the progress made on the defined indicators which is available in the public domain on the Champions of Change Dashboard for ADP (<http://championsofchange.gov.in/site/coc-home/>) and (<https://abp.championsofchange.gov.in/>) respectively.

The district wise list of ABP blocks in Kerala is attached at Annexure.

NITI Aayog also implements the ‘State Support Mission (SSM)’ which provides support to States/ UTs to establish State Institution for Transformation (SIT) or reimagine the role of existing State Planning Departments/ Boards which can act as multi- disciplinary resource centers to steer their development strategies. As on date, the State Government of Kerala has not submitted any proposal under the State Support Mission.

**ANNEXURE**

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (d) OF RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2533 FOR 10.08.2026 BY SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P  
REGARDING ASSESSMENT OF REGIONAL DISPARITIES**

**List of Aspirational Blocks of Kerala**

| <b>S. No.</b> | <b>District Name</b> | <b>Block Name</b> |
|---------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1             | Idukki               | Azhutha           |
| 2             |                      | Devikulam         |
| 3             | Kasargod             | Parappa           |
| 4             | Palakkad             | Attappadi         |
| 5             |                      | Kollengode        |
| 6             | Wayanad              | Kalpetta          |
| 7             |                      | Mananthavady      |
| 8             |                      | Panamaram         |
| 9             |                      | Sulthan Bathery   |

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