

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT  
LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †1620  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.07.2019**

**DEVELOPMENT IN SOCIAL SECTOR**

**†1620. SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE:**

**Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the speed of upward progress in the country in the social sector index is very low despite long term emphasis on reforms of quality of the life of the poor;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for speedy development in the social sector?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT  
(SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA)**

(a) and (b) : Yes. The Government is aware of the fact and several steps have been taken to ensure social inclusion through various initiatives such as scholarship schemes, reservation in education and employment, representation in Lok Sabha and State legislatures and Rural and Urban Local Bodies, subsidized credit facilities, entrepreneurship development opportunities and other infrastructure developmental Programmes etc. by increasing allocations under various Programmes and also bringing new Programmes like scheme of start-up India, stand-up India, PM MUDRA, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana etc.

The State-wise detailed data is available at Socio and Economic Castes Census 2011 (SECC 2011) in which inclusion and exclusion criteria is given. (at : <https://secc.gov.in> )

(c): The Ministry has prepared a National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) for 2018-2025. The Plan aims at reduction of adverse consequences of drug abuse on society, through a multi-pronged strategy involving education, de-addiction and rehabilitation of affected individuals and their families. It focuses on preventive education, awareness generation, identification, counseling, treatment and rehabilitation of drug dependent persons and training and capacity building of the service providers through collaborative efforts of the Central and State Governments and Non-Governmental Organisations.

Some of the measures taken by the Government through NITI Aayog for the welfare and empowerment of weaker sections are given below:

(i) NITI Aayog New Guidelines for Earmarking Budget Allocation for Welfare of Scheduled Tribes:

New Guidelines has been approved and being used for allocation of funds for the welfare of SCs and STs is adopted by obligating 41 Central Ministries / Departments in place of earlier 24 and 32 for welfare of SCs and STs. Similarly number of programmes also increased. Fund allocation is also increased for welfare of STs from Rs. 24,598.39 crore in 2013-14 to Rs 50,086 crore in 2019-20.

(ii) NITI Aayog's Strategy for New India @ 75:

NITI Aayog Strategies for New India @ 75 aimed to accelerate the socio-economic development of poor and vulnerable sections of the society, through focused action so as to bring them on par with the rest of the population as far as key human development indicators are concerned. Details about the New India @75 can be seen on the NITI Aayog's website:[https://niti.gov.in/writereaddata/files/document\\_publication/Strategy\\_for\\_New\\_India.pdf](https://niti.gov.in/writereaddata/files/document_publication/Strategy_for_New_India.pdf).

(iii) NITI Aayog New Initiative on Transformation of Aspirational Districts:

NITI Aayog has also launched another important initiative "Transformation of Aspirational Districts" in January, 2018 with aims to strength of these district for immediate improvement and progress in critical areas of development viz. health, nutrition, education, Agriculture & Water resources Basic Infrastructure and Financial inclusion & Skill Development. NITI Aayog has identified about 115 districts. More details about Aspirational District Programme can be found on NITI Aayog's website:<https://niti.gov.in/content/about-aspirational-districts-programme>.

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