

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PLANNING

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 263**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.02.2021

**ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS PROGRAMME**

†263. SHRI DILESHWAR KAMAIT:  
SHRI NIHAL CHAND:  
SHRIMATI JASKAUR MEENA:  
SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWAR:  
SHRI ABDUL KHALEQUE:  
SHRIMATI GEETA KORA:  
SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) The salient features, criteria, indicators and survey for selection of the Aspirational Districts Programme;
- (b) The State-wise districts selected as aspirational districts across the country including in Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Bihar;
- (c) The details of the amount of funds/projects sanctioned/allocated and utilized in the districts in other States including Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Bihar covered under the said programme in the country;
- (d) The details of the target set by the Union Government along with the achievements made till date and the focus areas identified under the said programme;
- (e) Whether the Government proposes to include/cover more districts including Dausa under the said programme, State-wise along with districts proposed in Assam, Bihar and Jharkhand and if so, the time by which it is likely to be covered included; and
- (f) Whether the Government gave priority to the districts affected by left wing extremism or focus areas identified while selecting aspirational districts?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR THE MINISTER OF PLANNING  
AND MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS  
AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

(RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

- (a) There are 112 Aspirational Districts, across 26 States and 1 Union Territory. These were selected through a transparent process on the basis of published data. List of data

sets and the weight attached to them for selection of these districts is attached in *Annexure - I*.

As regard salient feature of the programme, it aims at rapid transformation of these backward districts across sectors which are critical for improving quality of life or economic productivity of citizens. These sectors are Health and Nutrition, School Education, Agriculture and Water Resources, Financial Inclusion and Skill Development and Basic Infrastructure. 49 key performance indicators have been selected across these sectors and a district's performance is monitored on the basis of progress made on these indicators. The broad strategy of the Aspirational Districts Programme rests on the 3 Cs – Convergence (between Central and State Schemes), Collaboration (between Centre, State, District Administration, Development Partners and Citizens) and Competition (between Districts). Every month, districts are ranked on the basis of progress made and this instill them with a sense of competition which results in rapid improvement. In order that the data quality under this programme improves, there is a provision of third-party validation of important indicators. Another strategy of the programme is nomination of Joint Secretary/Additional Secretary level officials from Government of India as Central Prabhari Officers for each of the district. The role of these Prabhari Officers is to guide the district administration on basis of their long experience.

- (b) The State-wise list of all 112 Aspirational Districts is attached as *Annexure – II*.
- (c) As the main strategy of the programme is based on convergence of existing schemes which have their own funding arrangement, large infusion of additional fund is not envisaged. However, in order to foster competitive spirit, and for addressing the critical gaps, additional allocation on challenge route is also envisaged. Every month, districts are assessed on the basis of monthly progress and the best performing Districts in overall terms and in each of the five sectors are identified. The first and second rankers in overall terms are awarded Rs. 10 crores and Rs. 5 crores respectively. The first ranker from each of the five sectors is awarded Rs. 3 crores each. As of January 2021, a total of approximately Rs. 305.94 crores have been disbursed to Aspirational Districts since the inception of this Programme. List of the districts which have been sanctioned additional allocation on the basis of performance from Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Bihar are placed at *Annexure - III*.
- (d) The strategy of the Programme is to generate a sense of competition so that district show better progress every month. While the aim of the programme is to ensure progress in indicators so that these districts come at the level of State averages, no year wise specific target has been set by Union Government for these indicators.
- (e) Currently, the government does not have any proposal for expanding the list of Aspirational Districts.
- (f) Yes, during the initial shortlisting of Aspirational Districts, the Ministry of Home Affairs had recommended that 35 districts affected by Left Wing Extremism (LWE) be added to the Programme and this recommendation was accepted. List of these 35 Aspirational Districts which are among the 112 districts and have been selected on basis of them being adversely affected by Left Wing Extremism is placed at *Annexure - IV*.

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**List of data sets and weights used for selection of Aspirational Districts**

<b>DATABASES</b>	<b>SECTOR</b>	<b>WEIGHT</b>
Landless households dependent on Manual labour ( <i>Socio Economic Caste Census – Deprivation 7</i> )	Deprivation (25%)	25%
Ante natal care ( <i>National Health and Family Survey (NHFS) - 4</i> )	Health & Nutrition (30%)	7.5%
Institutional delivery ( <i>NHFS-4</i> )		7.5%
Stunting of children below 5 years ( <i>NHFS-4</i> )		7.5%
Wasting in children below 5 years ( <i>NHFS-4</i> )		7.5%
Elementary dropout rate ( <i>Unified District Information System for Education (U-DISE) 2015-16</i> )	Education (15%)	7.5%
Adverse pupil teacher ratio ( <i>U-DISE 2015-16</i> )		7.5%
Un-electrified households ( <i>Ministry of Power</i> )	Infra (15%)	7.5%
Households without individual toilets ( <i>Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation</i> )		7.5%
Un-connected PMGSY village ( <i>Ministry of Rural Development</i> )		7.5%
Rural Household without access to water ( <i>Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation</i> )		7.5%
<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>

**List of 112 Aspirational Districts**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>District</b>
1	Andhra Pradesh	Vizianagaram
2	Andhra Pradesh	Visakhapatnam
3	Andhra Pradesh	Y.S.R. Kadapa
4	Arunachal Pradesh	Namsai
5	Assam	Goalpara
6	Assam	Barpeta
7	Assam	Hailakandi
8	Assam	Baksa
9	Assam	Darrang
10	Assam	Udalguri
11	Assam	Dhubri
12	Bihar	Sitamarhi
13	Bihar	Araria
14	Bihar	Purnia
15	Bihar	Katihar
16	Bihar	Muzaffarpur
17	Bihar	Begusarai
18	Bihar	Khagaria
19	Bihar	Banka
20	Bihar	Sheikhpura
21	Bihar	Aurangabad
22	Bihar	Gaya
23	Bihar	Nawada
24	Bihar	Jamui
25	Chhattisgarh	Korba
26	Chhattisgarh	Rajnandgaon
27	Chhattisgarh	Mahasamund
28	Chhattisgarh	Kanker
29	Chhattisgarh	Narayanpur
30	Chhattisgarh	Dantewada
31	Chhattisgarh	Bijapur
32	Chhattisgarh	Bastar
33	Chhattisgarh	Kondagaon
34	Chhattisgarh	Sukma
35	Gujarat	Dahod
36	Gujarat	Narmada
37	Haryana	Mewat
38	Himachal Pradesh	Chamba
39	UT of Jammu & Kashmir	Kupwara
40	UT of Jammu & Kashmir	Baramulla
41	Jharkhand	Garhwa
42	Jharkhand	Chatra

43	Jharkhand	Giridih
44	Jharkhand	Godda
45	Jharkhand	Sahibganj
46	Jharkhand	Pakur
47	Jharkhand	Bokaro
48	Jharkhand	Lohardaga
49	Jharkhand	Purbi Singhbhum
50	Jharkhand	Palamu
51	Jharkhand	Latehar
52	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh
53	Jharkhand	Ramgarh
54	Jharkhand	Dumka
55	Jharkhand	Ranchi
56	Jharkhand	Khunti
57	Jharkhand	Gumla
58	Jharkhand	Simdega
59	Jharkhand	Pashchimi Singhbhum
60	Karnataka	Raichur
61	Karnataka	Yadgir
62	Kerala	Wayanad
63	Madhya Pradesh	Chhatarpur
64	Madhya Pradesh	Damoh
65	Madhya Pradesh	Barwani
66	Madhya Pradesh	Rajgarh
67	Madhya Pradesh	Vidisha
68	Madhya Pradesh	Guna
69	Madhya Pradesh	Singrauli
70	Madhya Pradesh	Khandwa
71	Maharashtra	Nandurbar
72	Maharashtra	Washim
73	Maharashtra	Gadchiroli
74	Maharashtra	Osmanabad
75	Manipur	Chandel
76	Meghalaya	Ribhoi
77	Mizoram	Mamit
78	Nagaland	Kiphire
79	Odisha	Dhenkanal
80	Odisha	Gajapati
81	Odisha	Kandhamal
82	Odisha	Balangir
83	Odisha	Kalahandi
84	Odisha	Rayagada
85	Odisha	Koraput
86	Odisha	Malkangiri
87	Odisha	Nabarangpur
88	Odisha	Nuapada
89	Punjab	Moga

90	Punjab	Ferozpur
91	Rajasthan	Dholpur
92	Rajasthan	Karauli
93	Rajasthan	Jaisalmer
94	Rajasthan	Sirohi
95	Rajasthan	Baran
96	Sikkim	West Sikkim
97	Tamil Nadu	Virudhunagar
98	Tamil Nadu	Ramanathapuram
99	Telangana	Asifabad
100	Telangana	Bhoopalapally
101	Telangana	Bhadradi-Kothagudem
102	Tripura	Dhalai
103	Uttar Pradesh	Chitrakoot
104	Uttar Pradesh	Fatehpur
105	Uttar Pradesh	Bahraich
106	Uttar Pradesh	Shrawasti
107	Uttar Pradesh	Balrampur
108	Uttar Pradesh	Siddharthnagar
109	Uttar Pradesh	Chandauli
110	Uttar Pradesh	Sonbhadra
111	Uttarakhand	Udham Singh Nagar
112	Uttarakhand	Haridwar

**List of Aspirational Districts which have been sanctioned additional allocation on the basis of performance from Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Bihar**

<b>District</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Amount (in Rs.)</b>
Jaisalmer	Rajasthan	2,99,31,000
Dhaulpur	Rajasthan	5,00,00,000
Dhaulpur	Rajasthan	5,00,00,000
Karauli	Rajasthan	3,00,00,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>15,99,31,000</b>
Purbi Singhbhum	Jharkhand	2,99,97,000
Khunti	Jharkhand	3,00,00,000
Sahibganj	Jharkhand	9,92,73,400
Pakur	Jharkhand	4,92,05,500
Dumka	Jharkhand	4,50,00,000
Ranchi	Jharkhand	5,00,00,000
Lohardaga	Jharkhand	3,00,00,000
Palamu	Jharkhand	10,00,00,000
Dumka	Jharkhand	4,50,00,000
Garhwa	Jharkhand	4,80,00,000
Latehar	Jharkhand	4,89,70,400
Khunti	Jharkhand	3,00,00,000
Simdega	Jharkhand	3,00,00,000
Latehar	Jharkhand	4,89,70,400
	<b>Total</b>	<b>68,44,16,700</b>
Begusarai	Bihar	5,00,00,000
Gaya	Bihar	2,92,50,000
Jamui	Bihar	3,00,00,000
Nawada	Bihar	1,14,00,000
Araria	Bihar	97,15,660
Purnia	Bihar	2,63,03,753
Katihar	Bihar	3,00,00,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>18,66,69,413</b>

**35 Aspirational District affected by Left Wing Extremism**

<b>S. NO.</b>	<b>STATE</b>	<b>DISTRICT</b>
1	Andhra Pradesh	Vishakhapatnam
2	Bihar	Muzaffarpur
3	Bihar	Banka
4	Bihar	Aurangabad
5	Bihar	Nawada
6	Bihar	Gaya
7	Bihar	Jamui
8	Chhattisgarh	Bijapur
9	Chhattisgarh	Rajnandgaon
10	Chhattisgarh	Kanker
11	Chhattisgarh	Narayanpur
12	Chhattisgarh	Dantewada
13	Chhattisgarh	Bastar
14	Chhattisgarh	Kondagaon
15	Chhattisgarh	Sukma
16	Jharkhand	Garhwa
17	Jharkhand	Chatra
18	Jharkhand	Giridih
19	Jharkhand	Bokaro
20	Jharkhand	Latehar
21	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh
22	Jharkhand	Ramgarh
23	Jharkhand	Dumka
24	Jharkhand	Khunti
25	Jharkhand	Gumla
26	Jharkhand	Simdega
27	Jharkhand	Pashchimi Singhbhum
28	Jharkhand	Lohardaga
29	Jharkhand	Palamu
30	Jharkhand	Purbi Singhbhum
31	Jharkhand	Ranchi
32	Maharashtra	Gadchiroli
33	Odisha	Malkangiri
34	Odisha	Koraput
35	Telangana	Bhadrachari-Kothagudem