

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PLANNING

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5723
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.04.2022

DEVELOPMENTAL WORKS IN ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS

†5723. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the developmental works carried out to remove the backwardness in the Aspirational Districts are not satisfactory and if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) the corrective steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION; MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS

(RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

- (a) No Sir. The development works carried out in Aspirational Districts are satisfactory and in a short span of time, the programme has emerged as a template of good governance in backward and difficult districts.

The Aspirational Districts Programme was launched for rapid transformation of 112 relatively underdeveloped Districts. Some of the salient features of this Programme include identification of 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. Besides real-time monitoring, the Champions of Change Portal provides District Administration with tools for data-driven governance and evidence-based policy making.

All Aspirational Districts have seen improvement since inception of the Programme. However, every district varies from others in its strengths and challenges, and accordingly, so does its performance. Details of district-wise performance (overall) since inception for aspirational districts is available on the Champions of Change Portal (<http://championsofchange.gov.in/site/coc-home/>) which is in the public domain.

- (b) While the districts have made significant progress, efforts are on to ensure that the progress is further accelerated in these districts. For this, close monitoring of development works is undertaken in each of the Aspirational district. Every month, districts are ranked on basis of progress made and this instils them with a sense of competition which results in rapid improvement. 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.
