

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PLANNING

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2662
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.12.2024

INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT OF AMRITSAR

2662. SHRI GURJEET SINGH AUJLA:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) the specific plans formulated by the Government for integrated development of Amritsar and its border areas to ensure economic growth, social progress and national security;
- (b) whether the Government has allocated or proposed to allocate the special grants or packages to boost economic opportunities including investment in industries, agriculture, food processing and tourism, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has a roadmap to improve border-area infrastructure, including roads, railways, air connectivity, to enhance trade and tourism potential, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to address challenges particularly to the border region such as unemployment, lack of healthcare facilities and limited access to modern education?

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 CULTURE

(RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a) & (b) No Sir. There is no specific proposal for the Integrated Development of Amritsar. However, all the development schemes of the Union Government are to be used by States and UTs for development of all regions in an integrated manner, improving the quality of life their residents. As for border protection, the Union Government has adopted a multi-pronged approach to strengthen it including through, inter-alia, creation of border infrastructure (i.e. fence, road, floodlights and Border Out Posts etc.), multi-tiered and multi-modal deployment of border guarding forces along the border, deployment of technological solutions, round the clock surveillance & patrolling, advanced weapons and equipment for security forces, improved intelligence and operational coordination, conducting special operations based on vulnerability mapping, anti-tunnelling exercise and pro-active action against intruders. In Tourism, the Ministry of Tourism through its central sector schemes of 'Swadesh Darshan

(SD)' and 'Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)' complements the efforts of States and UTs by extending financial assistance in synergy with the scheme guidelines, availability of funds etc. The Ministry has sanctioned one Project under PRASHAD at Amritsar, Punjab i.e. "Border experience at Attari in Amritsar" for development.

(c) Recently, the Government has sanctioned a proposal for construction of border roads in the States of Punjab and Rajasthan along Indo-Pakistan border which includes 173.28 Km of roads for Amritsar sector of Border Security Force.

(d) Amritsar District have two Aspirational Blocks: Ajnala and Harshe Chinna. Both are in the border area. The Aspirational Blocks Programme focuses on improving 40 Key Indicators in Health, Education, Nutrition, Agriculture, etc. through better governance in order to enhance the quality of life of citizens in underdeveloped blocks of India by converging existing schemes, defining outcomes, and monitoring them on a constant basis."
