GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PLANNING

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1849
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.02.2026

ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS PROGRAMME

1849. DR. ANAND KUMAR:

   Will the Minister of **PLANNING** be pleased to state:

(a)   the criteria and socio-economic indicators that are used for the selection of the districts under the Aspirational Districts Programme;

(b)   the details of the parameters and key indicators like health, education, nutrition, agriculture, infrastructure and financial inclusion that are used to assess the progress of development in the aspirational districts;

(c)   whether regular studies /evaluations are being carried out/conducted by the Government to monitor and measure the progress regarding implementation of the Aspirational Districts Programme; and

(d)   if so, the key findings of such studies and the details of the corrective measures that have been taken in the implementation of the programme based on these findings?

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) The Aspirational Districts were selected through a transparent process on the basis of published data. A composite index was prepared comprising challenges faced by the districts in terms of poverty of their citizens, relatively poor health and nutrition, education status, and deficient infrastructure.112 districts have been identified on the basis of these transparent criteria. These districts include 35 districts affected by Left Wing Extremism, which were selected by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The list of datasets and the weight attached to them for selection of these districts is attached in Annexure-I.

(b) The details of the 49 key indicators/ Parameters in the sectors of health & Nutrition, education, agriculture, Basic infrastructure and Skill development/ financial inclusion, that are used to assess the progress of development under the aspirational districts, are attached at Annexure – II.

(c) & (d) There have been two independent assessments of the functioning and impact of the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP)

(i) UNDP made a comprehensive appraisal of this programme

(ii) Institute for Competitiveness Assessment (a team of expert led by Prof. Michael Porter of Harvard Business school) made a detailed assessment of the programme

The UNDP report titled "Aspirational Districts Programme: An Appraisal," submitted in December 2020, confirmed that significant progress has been made in various aspects such as sector-wise growth, better governance through convergence, and accelerated development through competitive federalism. This progress has been driven by factors including strong leadership, real-time monitoring, data-driven decision-making, and capacity building. Additionally, the Institute for Competitiveness highlighted that nearly all districts in the ADP have shown improvement on key development parameters compared to the baseline, with the programme successfully advancing social impact and justice by targeting the benefits towards the most disadvantaged areas. The delta ranking system has played a crucial role in fostering a competitive and dynamic culture, which has motivated several low-performing districts to enhance their standings over the past three years.

Moreover, the Aspirational Districts Programme has developed the Champions of Change Dashboard to monitor the districts and capture real-time data on 49 indicators. The progress of all 112 districts is monitored periodically and the performance data of the districts is publicly accessible via the Champions of Change Dashboard (http://championsofchange.gov.in).

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1849 FOR 11.02.2026 BY DR. ANAND KUMAR: REGARDING ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS PROGRAMME

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

The sources of the data set are as follows:

1. http://rchiips.org/NFHS/districtfactsheet_NFHS-4.shtml (NFHS 4 Datasheet)
2. http://secc.gov.in/categorywiseDeprivationReport?reportType= SC%20Category# (SECC 2011- Deprivation Datasheet)
3. http://udise.in/drc2015-16.htm (U-DISE 2015-16 Datasheet)
4. http://saubhagya.gov.in/ (Saubhagya Website)
5. http://pmgsy.nic.in/ (PMGSY Website)

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1849 FOR 11.02.2026 BY DR. ANAND KUMAR: REGARDING ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS PROGRAMME

List of 49 Key Performance Indicators

S. No.	Key Performance Indicators
1.1	Percentage of Pregnant Women receiving four or more antenatal care check-ups against total ANC registration
1.2	Percentage of ANC registered within the first trimester against total ANC registration
1.3	Percentage of pregnant women (PW) registered for ANC against estimated pregnancies
2	Percentage of pregnant women taking Supplementary Nutrition under the ICDS programme regularly
3.1	Percentage of Pregnant having severe anaemia treated, against PW having severe anaemia tested cases.
3.2	Percentage of Pregnant Women tested for Haemoglobin (Hb) 4 or more times for respective ANCs, against total ANC registration
4.1	Sex Ratio at birth
4.2	Percentage of institutional deliveries out of total estimated deliveries
5	Percentage of home deliveries attended by an SBA (Skilled Birth Attendance) out of total home deliveries
6.1	Percentage of new-borns breastfed within one hour of birth
6.2	Percentage of live born infants with a birth weight 2500 gms
6.3	Proportion of live babies weighed at birth
7	Percentage of underweight children under 5 years
8.1	Percentage of stunted children under 5 years
8.2	Percentage of children with Diarrhoea treated with ORS
8.3	Percentage of children with Diarrhoea treated with Zinc
8.4	Percentage of children with ARI in the last 2 weeks taken to a health facility
9.1	Percentage of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)
9.2	Percentage of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM)

S. No.	Key Performance Indicators
10.1	Breastfeeding children receiving adequate diet (6-23 months)
10.2	Non-Breastfeeding children receiving adequate diet (6-23 months)
11	Percentage of children fully immunized (9-11 months) (BCG+ DPT3 + OPV3 + Measles1)
12.1	Tuberculosis (TB) case notification rate (Public and Private Institutions) as against estimated cases
12.2	TB Treatment success rate among notified TB patients (public and private)
13.1	Establishment of Health & Wellness Centres (HWCs)
13.2	Proportion of Primary Health Centers compliant to Indian Public Health Standards
13.3	functional FRUs (First referral units) rate
13.4	Availability of specialist services in District hospitals against IPHS norms
13.5	Conduct of village health, Sanitation, Nutrition Days
13.6	Proportion of Anganwadis with own buildings
13.7	Percentage of First referral units (FRU) having labour room and obstetrics OT NQAS certified (i.e., meet LaQShya guidelines)
14.1	Transition Rate (a) Primary to Upper Primary level
14.2	(b) Upper Primary to Secondary level
15	Toilet access: % schools with functional girls' toilets
16	Learning outcomes (Average in government schools) (a) Mathematics performance in Class 3 (b) Language performance in Class 3 (c) Mathematics performance in Class 5 (d)Language performance in Class 5 (e) Mathematics performance in Class 8 (f) Language performance in Class 8
17	Female literacy rate (15+ Age group)
18	Percentage of schools with functional drinking water facility
19	Percentage of schools with functional electricity facility at secondary level
20	Percentage of elementary schools complying with RTE specified Pupil Teacher Ratio

S. No.	Key Performance Indicators
21	Percentage of schools providing textbooks to children within 1 month of start of the academic session
22	Water Positive investments and Employment
(a)	Percentage of net sown area under micro-irrigation
(b)	Number of water bodies rejuvenated under MGNREGA
23	Crop Insurance- Percentage of net sown area under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)
24	Increase in Critical Inputs usage and supply
(a)	3 (a)Percentage increase in agricultural credit
(b)	3 (b) Certified quality seed distribution
25	Number of mandi in the district linked to electronic market
26	A) Percentage change in Price Realization (Wheat) B) Percentage change in Price Realization (Paddy Common, Paddy Grade A)
27	Percentage share of high value crops to total sown area in district
28	Agricultural productivity of 2 major crops
29	Percentage of animals vaccinated
30	Artificial Insemination coverage
31	Number of Soil Health Cards distributed
32	Total Disbursement of Mudra loan (in rupees) per 1 Lakh population
33	Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY): Number of Enrolments per 1 Lakh population
34	Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY): Number of Enrolments per 1 Lakh population
35	Atal Pension Yojana (APY): Number of Beneficiaries per 1 Lakh population
36	Percentage of bank accounts seeded with Aadhaar as a percentage of total banking accounts
37	Number of accounts opened under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana
38	No of youth certified in short term and long-term training schemes / no of youth in district in age group 15-29
39	No of certified youth employed /No of youth trained under short term and long-term training

S. No.	Key Performance Indicators
40	Number of Apprentices completing/Total number of trainees registered on the portal
41	No of people certified under Recognition of Prior Learning / Non formally skilled workforce
42	Number of Vulnerable/Marginalized youth certified trained under short term and long-term training a) Women - certified trained, b) SC - certified trained c) ST - certified trained d) OBC - certified trained e) Minorities - certified trained f) Differently abled - certified trained) / Total Number of youth certified trained
43	Percentage of households with electricity connection
44	Percentage of Gram panchayats with internet connection
45	a) Percentage of habitations with access to all weather roads under PMGSY b) Cumulative number of kilometres of all-weather road work completed as a percentage of total sanctioned kilometres in the district under PMGSY
46	Percentage of households with Individual Household Latrines
47	Percentage of Rural habitations with access to adequate quantity of potable water - 40 lpcd drinking water in rural
48	Coverage/ establishment of Common Service Centres at Gram Panchayat level
49	Number of pucca houses constructed for household who are shelter-less or having one room with kuchha wall and kuchha roof or having 2 room with kuchha wall and roof

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