

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PLANNING**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4343
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.03.2026**

REGIONAL IMBALANCES

4343. SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH:

Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to address regional imbalances through infrastructure development in the eastern and backward districts of the country;**
- (b) if so, whether any proposal for approval of road, rail, logistics hub, industrial corridor or other Central projects is under consideration of the Government particularly in Chandauli district of Uttar Pradesh; and**
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS & 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) to (c) The Government of India accords high priority to a balanced regional development and is addressing regional imbalances through accelerated infrastructure development in eastern and relatively underdeveloped regions of the country. Infrastructure development and connectivity enhancement are being undertaken through various sectoral programmes implemented by various

Ministries and departments. Key initiatives include PM GatiShakti National Master Plan, Bharatmala Pariyojana, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, capacity augmentation and development of high-speed and semi-high-speed railway corridors, UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) Scheme, Sagarmala, Jal Marg Vikas Project, Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan, AMRUT (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation), and Smart Cities Mission (SCM).

The Government has also articulated the vision of Purvodaya to transform eastern India into a major growth engine through infrastructure development, industrialization and improved connectivity. Under this initiative, industrial nodes under the Amritsar–Kolkata Industrial Corridor, including an industrial node at Gaya, and connectivity projects such as the Patna–Purnea Expressway, Buxar–Bhagalpur Expressway and an additional two-lane bridge over the Ganga at Buxar are proposed. Under the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP), four Industrial Smart Cities—Integrated Manufacturing Cluster (IMC) Gaya in Bihar, and Krishnapatnam, Orvakal and Kopparthy Industrial Areas in Andhra Pradesh—have been approved in Purvodaya States and are at various stages of implementation.

Also, Integrated Manufacturing Cluster (IMC) Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh, covering 351 acres with a project cost of ₹658 crore, has been approved and is expected to generate approximately 17,700 jobs and attract investment of about ₹1,600 crore.

The Union Budget 2026-27 places strong emphasis on initiatives for Eastern India. Key announcements include development of an East Coast Industrial Corridor, creation of five major tourism destinations, deployment of 4,000 e-buses, and a dedicated scheme for the development of Buddhist Circuits across Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and other northeastern states. In the inland waterways sector, a Regional Centre of Excellence for skill development is proposed in Dibrugarh, with additional training centres in Kolkata and Varanasi, and development of a ship repair ecosystem in Varanasi and Patna to support inland navigation and logistics. Further, focused development

of National Waterway-5 on the Mahanadi river system in Odisha has been envisaged to connect mineral-rich regions such as Talcher and Angul with industrial centres and ports including Paradeep and Dhamra.

In 2018, the Government of India launched the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP), a bold initiative designed to transform 112 of the country's most socio-economically challenged districts into engines of growth and opportunity. The programme's core philosophy is simple yet profound: shift the narrative from "backwardness" to "aspiration," and empower districts to realize their latent potential through data-driven governance, collaboration, and healthy competition.

Further, infrastructure development projects across sectors such as roads, railways and multimodal connectivity are being implemented by the relevant Ministries and Departments in the State of Uttar Pradesh, including Chandauli district, to strengthen connectivity and facilitate economic development.