

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PLANNING**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 815
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.02.2026**

REVIEW OF ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS/BLOCKS PROGRAMMES

815 SHRI G M HARISH BALAYOGI:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has undertaken any review to assess the progress made by districts and blocks identified under the Aspirational Districts and Blocks Programmes since inception and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) the criteria and parameters adopted to determine whether a district/block has achieved the developmental benchmarks required for exit from the respective programme;**
- (c) whether any district/block has so far been declared as having fulfilled the criteria for graduation/exit from the programme and if so, the details thereof, State-wise;**
- (d) whether the Government plans to revise/expand the existing list of Aspirational Districts and Blocks to include newly created districts or other backward regions and if so, the details and the proposed timeline thereof; and**
- (e) whether any mechanism has been put in place for periodic review, reclassification and rotation of districts and blocks under the programmes to ensure dynamic inclusion and exit based on developmental outcomes and 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) 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.

(b) & (c) The Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) and Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP) aims to saturate all Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) (49 in ADP & 40 in ABP) across all the themes under the programme for achieving overall socio-economic development in these districts and blocks.

As on date, there are no criteria and parameters for a district/block to graduate or exit from the respective programme.

(d) At present there is no such proposal.

(e) The performance of Aspirational Districts/Blocks is reviewed regularly, and they are ranked based on the progress made on the defined indicators; however, there is no such mechanism in place for periodic reclassification and rotation of districts and blocks under the programmes.
