

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PLANNING**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2416  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.12.2018**

**BACKWARD DISTRICTS IN UP**

2416. SHRI KANWAR SINGH TANWAR:

Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

- (a) The names of districts of Uttar Pradesh declared as backward/aspirational districts;
- (b) Whether the Government proposes to include more districts in the said list and if so, the details thereof;  
And
- (c) The steps taken to remove the backwardness of these districts and the extent to which the success has been achieved?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING  
AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS**

**(RAO INDERJIT SINGH)**

- (a) NITI Aayog has not declared any district as backward district. However, there are eight districts of Uttar Pradesh which have shown relatively slow progress in improvement in social sectors and have been identified as 'aspirational districts'. These districts are: Bahraich, Balrampur, Chandauli, Chitrakoot, Fatehpur, Shravasti, Siddharthnagar and Sonbhadra. Government of India in partnership with the State Government has launched an initiative namely "Aspirational District Programme" to rapidly transform these districts.
- (b) There is no such proposal to include more districts of UP at this stage under this programme.
- (c) The core strategy envisaged in this programme is to improve efficiency in the existing programmes of the Central and the State Governments through convergence. Under this programme, Central Prabhari Officer in the rank of Joint Secretary/Additional Secretaries have been assigned at the Centre level to monitor the implementation of the programme. They are to assist the State governments and the district administrations to improve their performance by acting as a bridge between the State Government, District and the Government of India. 49 Key Performance Indicators having 81 data points have been identified across important sectors like Health, nutrition, education, agriculture and water resources, financial inclusion and skill development and basic infrastructure and districts have been requested to create district action plan to bring rapid improvement in the targets. A dynamic dashboard is facilitating the district to ascertain its position among the Aspirational Districts in India on the basis of incremental change. This in turn is expected to enthuse the District teams to become competitive and with the assistance of their own State government to improve their position. In addition, key Central Ministries have prioritized these districts in their programme.

This has resulted in improving the focus of the district administration towards the activities which are critical for improving the quality of life of people in these districts and their economic productivity. These innovative features of the programme have resulted in districts improving their performance in key sectors. District wise progress in selected performance indicators is available on NITI Aayog's web portal <http://championsofchange.gov.in/>