

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PLANNING

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5717
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.04.2022

ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICTS OF UTTAR PRADESH

5717. SHRI SHYAM SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the developmental works carried out in the Aspirational Districts of Uttar Pradesh along with the details of the institutes/agencies carrying out the said works;
- (b) whether the Government has any proposal to cover more districts under the said programme in view of high unemployment rate in various districts 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 AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION; MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS

(RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

- (a) There are 8 districts of Uttar Pradesh, included under the Aspirational Districts Programme. These districts are Chitrakoot, Balrampur, Shravasti, Fatehpur, Siddharthnagar, Chandauli, Sonbhadra and Bahraich.

The programme aims at rapid transformation of these relatively underdeveloped districts across sectors which are critical for improving quality of life or economic productivity of citizens. These sectors are Health and Nutrition, School Education and Basic Infrastructure, and also Agriculture and Water Resources and Financial Inclusion & Skill Development. 49 key performance indicators have been selected across these sectors and a district's performance is monitored on the basis of progress made on these indicators on a monthly basis which is available in the public domain on the Champions of Change Dashboard (<http://championsofchange.gov.in/site/coc-home/>).

The broad strategy of the Aspirational Districts Programme is to not to run any additional scheme, but to ensure that development works under the existing schemes of Central and the State Governments are implemented efficiently to make improvement in the key performance indicators. Hence it rests on the 3 Cs – Convergence (between Central and State Schemes), Collaboration (between Centre, State, District Administration, Development Partners and Citizens) and Competition (between Districts). Every month, districts are ranked on the basis of progress made on the key performance indicators and become eligible for a performance grant/ additional allocation, and this instills them with a sense of competition which results in rapid improvement. Another strategy of the programme is nomination of Joint Secretary/Additional Secretary level officials from Government of India as Central Prabhari Officers for each of the district. The role of these Prabhari Officers is to guide the district administration on basis of their long experience.

In a short span of time, due to close monitoring and competition, the Aspirational Districts of UP have made significant progress across different sectors.

- (b) & (c) As mentioned above, the indicators under focus in this programme are of different sectors which improve quality of life or the economic productivity of the citizens in these relatively underdeveloped districts. By ensuring general development, the programme helps in addressing the problem of unemployment in these backward districts. While at present, there is no proposal to include more districts under the Programme, the focus on existing districts to further accelerate progress continues.
