

(UPSC) on the basis of Civil Services Examination is done on the basis of rank in the Civil Services Examination, preference, medical status, eligibility of the candidate and vacancy position in the relevant category. Further, Cadre Allocation to the All India Services (AIS) Officers is done on the basis of rank, preference, and vacancy position in the relevant category as per the Cadre Allocation Policy in vogue.

(d) Does not arise.

Renaming of Planning Commission

2671. SHRI P. L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) what was the purpose behind changing the name of Planning Commission to NITI Aayog;

(b) the amount allocated to NITI Aayog during the Financial Years 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18; and

(c) how much cost was incurred in changing name?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) It is incorrect to suggest that the transition from Planning Commission to NITI Aayog was merely a name change. The Cabinet Secretariat Resolution No. 511/2/1/2015-Cab., dated 01.01.2015 superseding Resolution No. 1-P (C)/50 dated 15.03.1950 clearly delineates the purposes behind the change.

(b) Amount allocated to NITI Aayog during the Financial Years 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 are given below:—

Amount Allocated in	₹ (in crores)
FY 2015-16	2211.63*
FY 2016-17	293.14
FY 2017-18	252.52

* The Annual Allocation includes UIDAI (Unique Identification Authority of India) and PFMS (Public Finance Management System).

(c) In view of answer to part (a), question does not arise.

India's position in Global Hunger Index

2672. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:—

(a) whether it is a fact that India's position in Global Hunger Index is getting worse with the passage of time;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) what are the reasons therefor; and
- (d) what action Government has taken or proposes to take to substantially improve the situation and eradicate hunger from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) The International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) has been bringing out the Reports on Global Hunger Index (GHI) every year since 2006. The latest Report on GHI for the year 2017 ranks India at 100th out of 119 countries compared to 97th amongst 118 countries in the year 2016 and 80th out of 104 countries in the year 2015. However, this does not signify worsening food situation in India. In fact, the GHI, 2017 Report acknowledges that India's GHI score has consistently improved from 46.2 in 1992 to 38.2 in 2000 and further to 35.6 in 2008 and 31.4 in 2017. Also, GHI scores from Reports across different are not directly comparable with one another and even the GHI Severity Scale is differently constituted in the 2014 and 2017 Reports.

(d) The Government of India accords high priority to the issue of hunger and malnutrition and is implementing several schemes/ programmes to improve food security situation in the country. The Government of India enacted the National Food Security Act, 2013 with the objective to provide for food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity. The Act makes a paradigm shift in approach to food security—from welfare to a rights based one. Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is now governed as per the provisions of the NFSA Act, 2013 which provides for coverage of about 67% of the total population of the country (75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population) for receiving highly subsidized food grains under TPDS. Coverage under the Act is under two categories- households covered under Antyodaya Anna Yojna (AAY) to the extent specified by the Central Government and the remaining households as priority households to be identified by the State Government /Union Territories (UT) Administration as per criteria evolved by them within the coverage determined by the State/UT. Households covered under the AAY are entitled to 35 kg of food grains per household per month at ₹ 1/2/3/ per kg for coarse grains/wheat/rice respectively, under the Act. The priority households are entitled to receive 5 kg of food grains per person per month at the above prices. The Act is being implemented in all States/ UTs covering about 80.73 crore persons, against intended total coverage of 81.34 crore persons for receiving highly subsidized food grains.

Additionally, the Central Government is implementing several schemes and programs, *i.e.*, Anganwadi Services, Scheme for Adolescent Girls and Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana under the Umbrella Integrated Child Development Services Scheme as directed targeted interventions to address the problem of malnutrition in the country. Apart from the above schemes, recently, the Government has set up POSHAN Abhiyaan for improving the nutritional indicators of children and pregnant women and lactating mothers.

As a result of the concerted efforts of the Central Government, the level of malnutrition among women and children has been steadily declining in the country as is evident from the recent report of National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4), 2015-16 when compared with the incidence in NFHS 3 (2005-06).

District declared as backward in Gujarat

†2673. SHRI NARANBHAI JEMLABHAI RATHWA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chhota Udaipur district of Gujarat has been declared as backward district;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to eradicate the backwardness of this district and the extent to which the backwardness of this district has been eradicated with the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Sir, NITI Aayog has not declared any district as "Backward District." However, it has listed 117 districts across 28 States as Aspirational Districts for their rapid transformation. Chhota Udaipur of Gujarat does not figure in this list. The districts have been finalized on the basis of a Composite Index which is given in the Statement (*See* below). In addition, 35 districts out of the 117 were selected on the basis of their being affected by Left Wing Extremism. Finally, states were also consulted in selection of districts to be included in the list of the Aspirational Districts. Two districts of Gujarat namely- Narmada and Dahod are included in the 117 Aspirational Districts. Chhota Udaipur could not be the selected on the basis of Composite Index nor was recommended by the State Government.

(c) The ongoing Aspirational Districts Programme, mentioned above is in addition to the existing programmes of the Government of Gujarat and Government of India.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.