

12.00 Noon**ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS****Aspirational districts in Karnataka**

*46. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Raichur and Yadgir districts in Karnataka have been identified as aspirational districts;
- (b) if so, the details of focussed areas identified under the programme;
- (c) the status of implementation of above programmes in the identified districts; and
- (d) the physical targets set and achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (RAOINDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes Sir, Raichur and Yadgir are the two Aspirational Districts identified from the State of Karnataka.

(b) The Aspirational Districts Programme focuses on five major areas; Health and Nutrition, Education, Agriculture and Water resources, Financial Inclusion and Skill Development and Basic Infrastructure. The month-wise progress of the Districts is measured across these five sectors through 49 key performance indicators.

(c) Since launch of the Programme in January 2018, Raichur has shown an overall improvement of 8.2%, while Yadgir has shown an overall improvement of 10.4% across the identified 49 indicators.

(d) Under this Programme, monthly performance of Districts across all the five sectors through 49 identified indicators is captured on a dashboard which is available in public domain at *championsofchange.gov.in*. The Districts are ranked based on their incremental progress in every sector during a month, thus nudging them to aspire to improve their performance in every indicator rapidly.

(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair*)

SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Sir, hon. Prime Minister, during his 31st interaction, through PRAGATI platform, asked the Ministry to set time-lines for aspirational districts so as to bring them to the national average.

So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Ministry set any time-lines to achieve various parameters for aspirational districts, particularly two districts of Karnataka.

RAO INDERJIT SINGH: Sir, there are no set time-lines.

The hon. Prime Minister launched this scheme on 5th January, 2018. Sir, 117 districts in the country were isolated on the basis of poverty. One State has refused to participate. So, out of these 117 districts, there are now 112 districts participating under this scheme. The reason why these districts chosen was primarily because health and nutrition was weak, education was weak, agriculture and water resources were weak and even financial inclusion, skill development and basic infrastructure were weak. So, the Government of India decided to provide better governance to these districts so that they can come at par with the rest of forward districts in the country.

Now, these two districts, ever since they have come under the scheme, have increased their percentage by 8.2 per cent (Raichur) and 10 per cent (Yadgir). Now, both these districts are being provided help from the Centre through 3C programmes *i.e.*, convergence of the Central and State sector schemes, collaboration between the Central and State sector schemes, district administration and CSR funding available and, finally, there is a competition amongst all these 112 districts and whoever comes out as the best gets ₹ 10 crores and whoever comes out the second best gets ₹ 5 crores.

SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Sir, there is no doubt that the Government of India, the State Administration and the district machinery are working hard to bring Raichur and Yadgir on par with the national average. As a part of this exercise, the State Government has submitted a number of proposals, such as, for opening Kendriya Vidyalayas in both the districts, industrial development, modern Science Villages, Raichur Airport, Raichur Bypass Road, and many other such proposals. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please be brief.

SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Yes, Sir, I will be very brief. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps the Ministry has taken to clear these proposals and by when these projects are going to be cleared.

RAO INDERJIT SINGH: Sir, they have been brought under this scheme because they were one of the poorest districts in that particular State. The schemes are proposed and the respective Ministries — like for the airport, the Ministry of Civil Aviation would be the incharge — themselves have a look at it. What we are doing is to see as to how the governance happening at the local level in the district itself; whether funds are being provided by the State Government; whether CSR Funds are being given; whether the district administration is taking up this matter diligently; and, whether they are making proposals to the State Government to implement that. That is how this scheme is enforced. If there is a demand from a particular State, we become bridge between them and, say, the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

SHRI SYED NASIR HUSSAIN: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is some additional funding for these two districts; what other incentives are provided to improve the socio-economic indicators of these districts; and, whether there will be a third party verification of the performance of the various indicators. I am asking this because I am from that area.

RAO INDERJIT SINGH: Sir, Yadgir secured first Delta Rank in agriculture and water resources in February, 2019, and was awarded rupees three crores. More recently, Yadgir secured first position in March, 2019 overall ranking. Raichur secured fourth position in financial inclusion and skill development thematic area, and seventh rank in agriculture and water resources in July 2019 Delta Ranking.

Now, the funds that have accrued to these two districts are: From CSR Funding is approximately ₹ 12.06 crore to Yadgir and ₹ 5.14 crore to Raichur

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Sir, this region comes under Article 371(J). A lot of funds have been released for the development of this region. Yadgir and Raichur are one of the hottest places in Karnataka and one of the backward districts too. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what are the steps that he has taken in terms of education in these areas.

RAO INDERJIT SINGH: Sir, there is a dashboard. If a district performs well in education, it is put up- on dashboard. If it has not performed well, then also, it is put up on dashboard. Education is one of the five major areas which have been taken up for development of these districts. If education is not forthcoming by itself then a spirit of competition is installed for it among these 112 districts. Hopefully, competition would help the educational levels rise in these two particular districts.

LT. GEN. (DR.) D.P. VATS (RETD.): Sir, through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister what has been done about the aspirational district of Mewat in Haryana *vis-a-vis* CSR Funds invested in that.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This question is related to Karnataka. If the Minister wants, he can reply.

RAO INDERJIT SINGH: Mewat falls in my Constituency. ...*(Interruptions)*... So, I have information on that. Out of the CSR funding, Mewat secured ₹ 4.33 crores over the last one year. The number of CPSEs which have been requested to provide funds to the district administration are HPCL, RITES Ltd., BPCL, Steel Authority of India, Indian Oil Corporation, NMDC Ltd., etc. I think they are trying to do their best to get some money from CSR as well.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Question No. 47. Shri Sanjay Raut.

Dues pending with Reliance Jio for using BSNL's/MTNL's infrastructure

*47. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Reliance Jio is the biggest mobile tower client for BSNL and MTNL;
- (b) if so, how much amount have been received from Reliance Jio for using BSNL and MTNL's infrastructure and services in the country since last three years;
- (c) how much of dues are pending with Reliance Jio and the steps taken by Government to recover the pending amount; and
- (d) how much of fixed income have been transferred from BSNL/MTNL to Reliance Jio during the last three years and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS, (SHRI DHOTRE SANJAY SHAMRAO): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Pursuant to policy formulated by the Government to permit sharing of infrastructure by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) are also monetising their