

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2780**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 22ND DECEMBER, 2021/ PAUSHA 01, 1943 (SAKA)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE NAXALITE AFFECTED AREAS OF ODISHA

2780. SHRI SUJEET KUMAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken by Government to create employment opportunities in the Naxalite affected areas of Odisha to prevent unemployed people to join Naxal groups;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government will consider sanctioning additional funds to the aspirational districts of Odisha to impart skill development and job opportunities to the youths; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI NITYANAND RAI)**

(a& b): The National Policy Action Plan to address Left Wing Extremism (LWE), approved in 2015, has development as one of the most important component. Apart from flagship schemes of the line Ministries of Government of India, several specific development schemes have been implemented in LWE affected areas including Odisha to improve road and telecom connectivity, financial inclusion, skill development, education etc.

Employment at the local level is generated with implementation of all such schemes and as a consequence of resultant economic growth.

More than 9600 km roads have already been constructed in LWE affected areas under the specific schemes line Road Requirement Plan-I (RRP-I) and Road Connectivity project for LWE affected areas (RCPLWEA) . 2343 mobile towers were installed under Phase-I and 2542 towers approved under phase-II of Mobile Connectivity Project for LWE Affected Areas . Rs. 2698 crore has been released since 2017 to ‘Most LWE Affected Districts’ under the scheme ‘Special Central Assistance (SCA)’ to fill the critical gaps in public infrastructure and services.

Special focus has been given to Skill Development and Entrepreneurship of the youth in these areas. 47 Industrial Training Institutes (ITI) and 68 Skill Development Centres (SDC) have been approved under “Skill Development Scheme in 47 Districts affected by LWE” with an estimated cost of Rs. 407.85 crore. Of these, 06 ITIs and 10 SDCs have been approved in 06 LWE affected districts of Odisha. Further, 5,36,427 candidates have been trained in the State of Odisha till date under the flagship scheme Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).

(c) & (d): The main strategy of the 'Aspirational Districts Programme' is bringing convergence of existing schemes which have their own funding arrangements. Therefore, large infusion of additional funds is not envisaged under this programme.

However, to foster competitive spirit and address critical gaps, a provision of additional allocation is there for districts securing good ranks based on their monthly incremental progress. The first and second rankers in overall terms are awarded Rs. 10 crore and Rs. 5 crore respectively. The first ranker from each of the five sectors is awarded Rs. 3 crore each. As per this method, the Aspirational Districts of Gajapati, Nuapada, Bolangir, Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, Dhenkanal, Kalahandi, Kandhamal and Koraput in Odisha, have been sanctioned a cumulative amount of approximately Rs. 43.30 crores for projects formulated by the Districts in sectors line including Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture & Water Resources and Financial Inclusion & Skill Development
