

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2430
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13TH DECEMBER, 2021

STARS and ASPIRE Initiatives.

2430. DR. T. SUMATHY (a) THAMIZHACHI THANGAPANDIAN:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) the status, timeline and framework for partnership with Asian Development Bank for roll out of the project Accelerating State Education Programme to Improve Results(ASPIRE) in 5 new States;

(b) the process to be followed to select these States?

(c) the details of non-State actors with whom meetings have taken place for implementing elements of the Strengthening Teaching Learning and Results for States Programme(STARS) and ASPIRE projects, along with the components thereof ; and

(d) whether there is a commitment to ensure all PPPs under the scheme likely to be solely permitted with non-profit entities and if so, the details thereof ?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(SHRIMATI ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a): The project of Accelerating State Education Programme to Improve Results (ASPIRE) has been approved by Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC). The timeline for ASPIRE is from 2022-23 to 2026-27. The framework for the project is available at <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/project-documents/53386/53386-001-pam-en.pdf>

(b): The states of Assam, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, and Uttarakhand are covered under ASPIRE program. The five States were selected according to the Ministry of Education (MOE)'s Performance Grading Index 2017–2018, by considering a mix of States from different levels, population sizes, and geographic dispersion.

(c) & (d): The STARS Program has two result areas: a national component that supports efforts to improve overall monitoring and measurement activities in the Indian school education system and a state component with five sub-components. The national component

broadly aims at improving and tracking secondary school completion rates, fostering reforms in governance and monitoring improvement in states' governance scores through the State Incentive Grants (SIGs) and strengthening learning assessment systems at the national level. The state component encompasses strengthening of Early Childhood Education (ECE), improving learning assessment systems, improving teacher performance and classroom practice, strengthening the school-to-work/higher education transition, strengthening governance and decentralized management etc. The program has offered flexibility to the six states to choose from among the five sub-components depending on their state-level context and needs. Under the STARS Program it is up to the States to use any of the components to improve service delivery.

ASPIRE program is aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 to assist the states to transform a set of government schools into achieving essential learning resources, scale up effective student-centred interventions to boost learning; and strengthen the core elements of state education for overall system improvements. The program also aims to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on students' learning and mainstream digital learning-teaching capabilities across the schools.
