

Ground-breaking projects generated 1 lakh-plus jobs

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Lucknow: The two ground-breaking ceremonies (GBCs) held by the state government, GBC-1 in 2018 and GBC-2 in 2019, have generated a total employment of more than a lakh (1,04,857) in UP and proposed a total investment of Rs 1,28,500 crore – out of this, actual investment worth Rs 99,702.1 crore has come to the state, which is more than 77% of the proposed investment.

The state government had shortlisted 371 projects for investment in the two ceremonies. Out of these, 114 are commercially operational and 128 are under different stages of implementation. As many as 11 projects have been dropped and another 118 are dormant.

In response to Lucknow-based RTI (Right to Information) activist Urvashi Sharma's query, Invest UP has provided information about the outcome of the two GBCs. The state government has held three GBCs till now. The first event was held on July 29, 2018, second on July 28, 2019 and third on June 3, 2022.

Sharma had sought information on 19 points about the total projects shortlisted, projects under implementation, projects dropped and projects commercially operational besides the amount spent by the state government on organizing the three ground-breaking ceremonies separately.

Concerning the first ground-breaking ceremony (GBC-1), the RTI response revealed that out of the 81 projects shortlisted, 16 are under implementation, 41 projects are commercially operational and four have been dropped. Also, 12 projects are dormant right now. The commercially operational projects have generated a total employment of 87,274.

Total projects worth Rs 61,500 crore were proposed during the GBC-1. "Total projects worth Rs 51,025.6 crore have actualised and commenced," said the response, adding that investment is a continuous process and it may vary (increase or decrease) during the implementation phase of the project.

Similarly, GBC-2 had shortlisted 290 projects, out of which, 112 are under implementation and 65 are commercially operational. Total projects worth Rs 67,000 crore were proposed and total projects worth Rs 48,676.5 crore have actualized and commenced. Total employment generated by the commercially operational GBC-2 projects is 17,583.

Sharma had also asked about the amount spent by the state government on organizing the GBCs but the information was denied under section 8(1)(d) of the RTI Act 2005 as the information pertained to "commercial confidence, trade secrets or intellectual property, the disclosure of which would harm the competitive position of the third party, unless the competent authority is satisfied that larger public interest warrants the disclosure of such information".