

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PLANNING

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1708
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2023

ERADICATION OF POVERTY

†1708. SHRI RAMCHARAN BOHRA:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has launched various new schemes for poverty eradication in the country during the last three years and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the said schemes are being implemented as per the target fixed in this regard, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether the number of families living below the poverty line has decreased in the country during the said period and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION; MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS

(RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

- (a) to (c) The primary policy objective of the Government is development of all segments of the population. Its focus on inclusive growth is reflected in commitment to “Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas” to reduce poverty and inequality, provide social security, income generation and livelihood options, and improve the quality of life of the vulnerable sections of the population in the country. In this regard, the Government is implementing a number of targeted programmes such as Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY NRLM), National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), Deen Dayal

Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, Atal Pension Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, Stand Up India Scheme, Umbrella Programmes for Development of Minorities and Other Vulnerable Groups; Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna; fund transfer under PM-KISAN, PM Fasal Bima Yojana; fertiliser subsidies; interest subvention for dairy cooperatives; Agri-Infrastructure Fund for farm gate infrastructure, etc.

Further, the Government has implemented various programmes, including Jal Jeevan Mission, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, PM Ujjwala Yojana, PM Saubhagya Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), etc. to bring about overall improvement in the quality of life of the people through universal access to basic amenities. The details regarding some of the initiatives taken by the Government to eradicate poverty in the country are given at **Annexure.**

NITI Aayog has also released the National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progress Review 2023 on 17th July 2023 in partnership with UNDP and Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI). As per this report 13.5 crore people escaped "Multidimensional Poverty" between 2015-16 and 2019-21. A Steep decline has been reported in the number of multidimensionally poor from 24.85% to 14.96% between 2015-16 and 2019-21. The report is available in the public domain and can be accessed at the following website: <https://niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2023-08/India-National-Multidimensional-Poverty-Index-2023.pdf>

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1708 FOR 13.12.2023 BY SHRI RAMCHARAN BOHRA: REGARDING ERADICATION OF POVERTY

Initiatives taken by the Government to eradicate poverty in the country

i. **Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP):** The Government has also implemented the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) since 2018, aimed at comprehensive development of identified districts across various States/UTs, in six areas: (i) health & nutrition, (ii) education, (iii) agriculture & water resources, (iv) financial inclusion, (v) skill development, and (vi) basic infrastructure. To further strengthen this initiative, the Government has recently launched the Aspirational Blocks Programme covering 500 blocks for the provision of essential government services across these six domains.

ii. **Initiatives taken during Covid-19:** During COVID-19, Government made several targeted interventions to mitigate the adverse impact of the pandemic on the lives and livelihoods of the people, particularly the vulnerable sections of the society through the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY), implemented since April 2020. These included, inter alia, world's largest free food program, cash transfers to women Jan Dhan account holders, insurance cover for health workers fighting COVID-19, increase in MGNREGA wages, assistance to low wage earners in organised sectors, etc.

In keeping with the concern and sensitivity towards poor and vulnerable sections of society, the Cabinet led by Hon'ble Prime Minister has decided that the Central government will provide free food grains to about 81.35 crore beneficiaries at an estimated cost of Rs. 11.80 lakh crore under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) for a period of five years with effect from 1st January, 2024. Free food grains (rice, wheat and coarse grains/millet) under PMGKAY for 5 years from 1.1.2024 will strengthen food security and mitigate any financial hardship of the poor and vulnerable sections of the population. It will also enable ease of living, in terms of allowing beneficiaries to lift free of cost food-grains from any fair price shop in the country under the ONORC-One Nation One Ration Card- initiative. This initiative is of enormous benefit for migrants, facilitating both intra and inter State portability of entitlements as part of technology based reforms under Digital India.

iii. **PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi):** The Government is implementing PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme since June 01, 2020 to facilitate micro-credit to street vendors, vending in urban areas so that they can restart their business which was adversely impacted during the Covid-19 pandemic. As of December 7, 2023, 74.64 lakh loans amounting to Rs. 9,820.46 Cr have been disbursed to 56.73 lakh street vendors across the country.

iv. **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM):** The Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely, “Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)” since 2014-15 in the statutory towns of the country, to reduce poverty and vulnerability of urban poor households on a sustainable basis. The Mission, inter-alia, aims to enable urban poor to access gainful self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities. Also, financial assistance is provided to individuals/ groups/ Self Help Groups (SHGs) of urban poor for setting up gainful self-employment ventures or micro enterprises. The Physical Progress during last 3 years (2020-21 to 2022-23) is as follows:

Number of Self Help Groups (SHGs) formed : 3,02,896
· Number of SHGs given Revolving Fund (RF) : 2,40,938
· Number of persons imparted skill training : 4,13,528
· Number of beneficiaries assisted in setting-up of I&G micro-enterprises : 3,00,167
· Number of loans given to SHGs under bank- linkage programme : 2,91,893

v. **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY):** Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) was launched on 01.05.2016 to provide deposit free LPG connections to adult women from poor households across the country. As on 30.09.2023, 9.59 Crore PMUY connections have been released in the country. Recently, the Government has approved the release of additional 75 lakh connections under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) for the period FY 2023-24 to FY 2025-26, with Government support of ₹ 2,200 per connection for 14.2 Kg Single Bottle Connection/ 5 Kg Double Bottle Connection & ₹ 1,300 per connection for 5 Kg Single Bottle Connection.

vi. The Union Budget 2023-24 has prioritized inclusive development through various measures such as initiatives for the agriculture sector (for example: digital public infrastructure for

agriculture; Agriculture Accelerator Fund; focus on cotton crop and horticulture; making India a global hub for millets; enhanced agriculture credit target etc); skilling, health, and education. The Budget further announced the Pradhan Mantri PVTG Development Mission to improve socio-economic conditions of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) to ensure basic facilities for PVTG families and habitations. This has been launched recently as PM PRANAM. The outlay for PM Awas Yojana has also been enhanced by 66 per cent to over Rs. 79,000 crore to achieve "Housing for all".

The details of the funds allocated and actually spent, for various years, for the Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Central Sector Schemes are available in Statement 4A and Statement 4B, respectively in the "Expenditure Profile" document, which is part of the annual Union Budget documents. The details can be accessed at the URL: <https://www.indiabudget.gov.in>.
