

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3845  
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2000  
DEVELOPMENT OF SLUMS  
AVTAR SINGH BHADANA

**Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the employment opportunities, measures for the poverty alleviation and development of slums have been improved after the bifurcation of his Ministry;
- (b) if so, the extent to which the new Ministry has been able to formulate policies regarding the urban employment, urban housing and urban poverty alleviation;
- (c) whether a meeting of State Urban Employment Ministers and Secretaries was called in this context during January, 2000;
- (d) if so, the agenda discussed therein and the decisions arrived thereat;
- (e) whether any concrete action/programme and target has been fixed by the Government in regard to achieving the target of employment and also removing poverty in the country; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT & POVERTY ALLEVIATION ( SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA )

(a)&(b): This Ministry is implementing a centrally sponsored scheme, namely, Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana

(SJSRY) with effect from 01.12.1997 on all India basis for the benefit of urban poor. This programme seeks to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed or under-employed poor through encouraging the setting up of self-employment ventures or provision of wage employment by utilising their labour for construction of socially and economically useful public assets. This programme targets the urban poor read upto 9th standard and living below the poverty line, as defined from time to time. A core group has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary with the representatives of the Planning Commission and representatives of some State Governments to review the guidelines of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana (SJSRY) to improve its implementation.

For the development of slums this Ministry has prepared a draft National slum Policy in April, 1999 and have circulated the same to all the States/UTs, concerned Ministries and the four Metropolitan cities in December 1999 for their view/comments on the draft Policy. The views/comments of most of the States/UTs, Ministries/Departments are still awaited. The 2 million housing programme under which 7 lakh additional houses will be constructed every year in the urban areas, is an ongoing policy started in 1998-99, which has a focus on urban poor including slum dwellers.

(c): No, Sir.

(d): Does not arise Sir.

(e)&(f): Under SJSRY, no targets are fixed by the Central Government. The matter pertaining to the targets under the scheme has been left to be decided by the State Governments in conformity with the guidelines of the scheme and results of beneficiary survey. This has been done to ensure adequate flexibility in the operation of the scheme. The SJSRY outlines a concrete plan for eradication of poverty through community action, formulation of neighbourhood groups and community development societies.