

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4024

ANSWERED ON:19.04.2000

DECLINE IN POVERTY

VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR;Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the first India Rural Development Report released in the month of February, 2000, indicates a decline in poverty;
- (b) if so, the details thereof in terms of percentage of decreased/increased, State-wise, with special reference to Central and Eastern region; and
- (c) the efforts being made by the Government to further reduce the poverty?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS.

(SHRI ARUN SHOURIE)

(a) and (b): Yes, Sir. Table-2.2 on page 11 of India Rural Development Report 1999 published by the National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad, gives the State-wise percentage of population below the poverty line in rural areas for five points of time. These are the official estimate of poverty as released by the Planning Commission in March 1997. Quoting this, the Report states that percentage of persons living below the poverty line in rural areas has declined from 56.44% in 1973-74 to 37.27% in 1993-94. The Report has also quoted other estimates of rural poverty made by individual researchers as well as the World Bank at national level. The estimate of the percentage of people below the poverty line in rural areas in 1973-74 and 1993-94 and their increase/decrease during this period at state level are given in the Annexure.

(c): There is a three-pronged action to alleviate and reduce the poverty in the country. These are:

- (a) acceleration of economic growth,
- (b) human, and social development through literacy, education, health, nutrition, meeting of the minimum needs, elevation of social and economic status of the weaker sections of the society, etc., and
- (c) direct attack on poverty through employment and income generating programmes and assets-building for the poor. Recently the programmes for direct attack on poverty in rural areas have been strengthened. IRDP and allied programmes, alongwith Million Wells Scheme have been restructured into single self-employment programme called the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) with the primary objectives of focussed approach to poverty alleviation. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) has also been restructured as Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) with the primary objective of creation of demand driven community village infrastructure including durable assets at the village level and assets to enable the rural poor to increase the opportunities for sustained employment. Its secondary objective is generation of supplementary employment for the unemployed poor in the rural areas. Employment Assurance Scheme has also been strengthened from 1.4.1999 as single wage employment programme. The wage employment under the programme is given to Below Poverty Lines (BPL) families.

Annexure Percentage of People Below the Poverty Line in Rural Areas

Sl. State/UT's 1973-74 1993-94 Increase (+) /
No. Decrease (-)

1. Andhra Pradesh	48.41	15.92	-32.49
2. Arunachal Pradesh	52.67	45.01	-7.66
3. Assam	52.67	45.01	-7.66
4. Bihar	62.99	58.21	-4.78
5. Goa	46.85	5.34	-41.51

6. Gujarat	46.35	22.18	-24.17
7 Haryana	34.23	28.02	-6.21
8. Himachal Pradesh	27.42	30.34	2.92
9. Jammu & Kashmir	45.51	30.34	-15.17
10. Karnataka	55.14	29.88	-25.26
11. Kerala	59.19	25.76	-33.43
12. Madhya Pradesh	62.66	40.64	-22.02
13. Maharashtra	57.71	37.93	-19.78
14. Manipur	52.67	45.01	-7.66
15. Meghalaya	52.67	45.01	-7.66
16. Mizoram	52.67	45.01	-7.66
17. Nagaland	52.67	45.01	-7.66
18. Orissa	67.28	49.72	-17.56
19. Punjab	28.21	11.95	-16.26
20. Rajasthan	44.76	26.46	-18.30
21. Sikkim	52.67	45.01	-7.66
22. Tamil Nadu	57.43	32.48	-24.95
23. Tripura	52.67	45.01	-7.66
24. Uttar Pradesh	56.53	42.28	-14.25
25. West Bengal	73.16	40.80	-32.36
26. A & N Island	57.43	32.48	-24.95
27. Chandigarh	27.96	11.35	-16.61
28. Dadra & N.H.	46.85	51.95	5.10
29. Daman & Diu	-	5.34	-
30. Delhi	24.44	1.90	-22.54
31. Lakshadweep	59.19	25.76	-33.43
32 Pondicherry	57.43	32.48	-24.95
All India	56.44	37.27	-19.17