

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PLANNING  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:634  
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2000  
BELOW POVERTY LINE  
BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH

**Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether it is a fact that even now the entire money spent on Poverty Alleviation Programmes is not reaching the intended beneficiaries;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether the level of improvement of the lot of the Below Poverty Line beneficiaries is commensurate with the amount spent on them; and
- (d) if not, the facts and reasons thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE 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 to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.634 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 10.5.2000 REGARDING BELOW POVERTY LINE BY DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH

(a) to (b): The Poverty Alleviation Programmes can be broadly categorised into two: those that provide opportunities for self-employment and those that provide supplementary wage employment in lean agricultural season. Evaluations are conducted periodically to gauge the efficacy of the Programmes in removing poverty. The Ministry of Rural Development carries out concurrent evaluation of anti-poverty programmes implemented in rural areas. The results of the fifth round of concurrent evaluation of Integrated Rural Development Programme indicate that though a large number of beneficiaries have substantially improved their living conditions, major areas of concern remain. Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe beneficiaries were only 40 percent of the total beneficiaries assisted as against the target of 50 per cent. Only 14 per cent women-headed households received assistance. Around 22 per cent of the old IRDP beneficiaries had reportedly made payments to Government/bank staff for getting IRDP assistance. Some of the other evaluation studies commissioned by the Ministry of Rural Development and the Planning Commission have also indicated that assistance in some cases was provided to families which were not below poverty line. The evaluation of Wage Employment Programme shows that these programmes were better targeted and did provide employment opportunities in lean season. Even in such programmes work was executed often through contractors which was not permitted and muster rolls were not properly maintained.

(c) to (d): The performance of the country in reducing poverty, though not spectacular, shows that substantial progress has been achieved. In 1973-74, 321.3 million people i.e. 54.9% of the total population was below poverty line. The ratio declined to 35.97 per cent in 1993-94. However, the number of people below poverty line remained at 320.3 million. A major reason for number of people below poverty line remaining the same was the rise in population in the intervening years.

The evaluation of Poverty Alleviation programmes has indicated that though there are problem areas which need to be addressed, there have been many success stories that have emerged. The empowerment of women under DWCRA has been highlighted in many studies. The evaluations have also indicated that the effectiveness of the Programmes is very closely related to the involvement of the people in implementation of the Programmes.

Based on the findings of the various Evaluation Studies, the mid-course corrections have been carried out in the Poverty Alleviation Programmes periodically. Rural Poverty Alleviation Programmes were restructured w.e.f. 1.4.1999 to improve the efficacy of these Programmes. The Integrated Rural Development Programme was restructured as a holistic programme of micro enterprise covering all aspects of self-employment including organisation of rural poor into self-help groups, their capacity building, planning of activity cluster, infrastructure build-up, technology, credit and marketing facilities. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana has been restructured with the primary objective of creating demand-driven community village infrastructure. Employment Assurance Scheme has been restructured

as a single wage-employment programme and seeks to provide employment in lean season. Self-employment and Wage-employment Schemes in urban areas were also restructured w.e.f. 1.12.1997 under Swarnajayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana. The Government has taken measures to ensure active participation of the people as partners in the process of development. Conditions have been created for people to take advantage of opportunities and give free flow to their inherent capabilities. With the empowerment of Panchayati Raj Institutions, this process would be given further impetus.

The strategy for poverty removal comprises of accelerated economic growth with opportunities for productive employment to people below poverty line in the growth process itself, provision of basic minimum services and direct intervention through anti-poverty programmes.