

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:594  
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2002  
SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION  
MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARY;RAM PRASAD SINGH

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

- (a) whether poverty is increasing continuously in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Union Government propose to formulate any special programme for poverty alleviation;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT & POVERTY ALLEVIATION ( SHRI ANANTH KUMAR )

(a)to(e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO:594 ON 07.5.2002 REGARDING SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION

(a)&(b): No, Sir. Planning Commission in their latest estimates (1999-2000) have, in fact, indicated a decrease in the total poverty ratio in the country as compared to that in 1993-94.

(c)to(e): There is no such proposal under consideration at present. The Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation has already been implementing through the State Governments/UTs, a Centrally Sponsored Urban Poverty Alleviation Programme named Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), with effect from 1.12.1997 with a view to providing gainful employment to the urban unemployed or under employed poor through

- (i) encouragement to setting up of self-employment ventures by those who have studied upto 9th standard; and
- (ii) provision of wage employment by utilising their labour for construction of socially and economically useful public assets. The scheme is funded in the ratio of 75:25 between the Centre and the States.

In addition, the Ministry of Small Scale Industries have been implementing a self employment scheme, namely, Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) with effect from 2nd October, 1993. Under the scheme educated unemployed youth are assisted to set up self employed tiny units costing upto Rs.2 lakhs in all economically viable activities. Of the total project cost, 80% come as a loan from the banks and rest 20% is subsidy from the Central Government and the margin money contribution from the beneficiaries.

Further, Ministry of Rural Development have recently launched the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) in September 2001 to provide wage employment in the Rural areas and also food security, along side the creation of durable community, social and economic assets and infrastructure in these areas. The scheme is fully operationalised with effect from 1.4.2002. The erstwhile wage employment schemes, namely Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) and Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) have been merged with the SGRY. There is another scheme, named, Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) launched during 1999 and is the only self-employment programme now being implemented. This scheme has the objective of improving the family income of the rural poor.