

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:945
ANSWERED ON:13.07.2004
DECLINE IN POVERTY
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

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

- (a) whether poverty in India is on the decline as per the World Bank report, titled 'India: sustaining Reform, Reducing Poverty';
- (b) if so, the main features of this report;
- (c) the further steps being considered to remove poverty;
- (d) whether the new economic programme of the Government has helped to reduce poverty in India; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT & POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARISELJA)

(a)to(e): The World Bank, in its Report titled 'India : Sustaining Reform, Reducing Poverty', while reporting on the progress on social indicators for the period 1980-2000, have reported that the percentage of incidence of poverty in India has declined as follows:-

POVERTY INCIDENTS (PERCENTAGE)

1980s	1990s	2000s
44.5%	36.0%	26.1%

The Report, inter-alia, deals with assessing development outcomes, progress on social indicators, macro-economic trends over the past two decades, fiscal policy, reforms in power distribution, delivery of public services, improving the investment climate for industry and services, agriculture and rural development and development prospects and risks.

Insofar as the Ministry of Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation is concerned, it has been implementing through the State/Union Territory Governments, a Centrally Sponsored Urban Poverty Alleviation Programme named Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), on all India basis, with effect from 1.12.1997 with a view to providing gainful employment to the urban unemployed or under-employed poor through, firstly, encouraging the setting up of self-employment ventures by those, who have studied upto 9th standard and secondly, by providing wage employment by utilizing their labour for construction of socially and economically useful public assets. The programme is meant to alleviate the urban poverty and the same has been continued in the 10th Five Year Plan (2002-07). In addition, other programmes, such as, Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY), National Slum Development Programme (NSDP), & Housing for Economically Weaker Sections are being vigorously implemented with a view to ameliorate the conditions of the urban poor.