

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2481
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2010
PEOPLE LIVING BELOW POVERTY LINE
Singh Shri Radha Mohan

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the gap between the poor and the rich people in the rural areas has been continuously widening;
- (b) if so, whether any recent study has been conducted in this regard;
- (c) if so, the findings thereof and the follow-up action taken in this regard; and
- (d) the details of the steps taken to improve the status and living condition of the rural people for bridging the widening gap and the imbalance between the rural poverty and richness?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN `ADITYA`)

(a) to (d): According to available information, there are no studies conducted recently which suggests widening the gap between the rich and poor in the rural areas. However, the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) implements various schemes viz. Mahatama Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) for wage employment and Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)/National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) as self employment programme for employment generation and poverty alleviation. The other important schemes include Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) for housing, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) for rural connectivity and infrastructure, National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) for welfare, Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) for area development, National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) for safe drinking water and Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) for sanitation in all the rural areas of the country. These schemes are implemented through State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. The broad objective of these schemes is to provide additional income to the target group, ensuring overall improvement in living standard of rural households and bridge the gap between poor and rich people.