

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5117
ANSWERED ON:27.08.2010
SPENDING ON SOCIAL WELFARE SCHEME
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Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether African and Asian countries spend a large amount on their social welfare schemes.
- (b) If so, the extend to which the funds spent in our country on social welfare schemes is less in comparison to other poor countries along with the reasons therefor;
- (e) Whether most of the population of our country is not covered under social welfare schemes;
- (d) If so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) The steps taken so far by the Government to bring the maximum number of person under the net of social welfare schemes?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) & (b): Each country is confronted with unique sets of challenges and opportunities depending upon various internal and external factors. These factors could be geographic, economic, historic, political or circumstantial which invariably place competing demands on a country's resources at any given point of time. Taking into account these factors, the countries especially the poor countries allocate resources for their developmental and social objectives. So far as India is concerned, we have embarked on a planned growth strategy and the vision for the current Five Year Plan contained in its approach paper envisages a more broad-based and inclusive growth designed to reduce poverty. Accordingly appropriate allocations have been made for various social welfare schemes.

(c)to(e): Government of India is running various social welfare schemes in critical sectors like health, education, sanitation, employment, housing, roads etc both in the rural and urban areas. Moreover, in order to ensure better coverage and to lay special emphasis on the vulnerable sections of the society there are dedicated schemes for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Minorities, Women, Old and Disabled people. The Government has also started or revamped many schemes with focus on the aam aadmi and special emphasis on rural development. Considerably increased allocations have been made in schemes like Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban renewal Mission, San/a Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and other areas which have constituted part of the ambitious Bharat Nirman scheme to bring the maximum number of persons under the net of social welfare schemes.