

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4685

ANSWERED ON:08.12.2010

EXPENDITURE PROFILE

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Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Arjun Sengupta Committee, using the NSS consumption data for the 61st round (2004-05) reported that as much as 77% of our population spends less than Rs. 20 per day as total consumption expenditure;

(b) if so, the schemes and programmes the Government is implementing to enhance the expenditure capacity of these 77% of the poor and vulnerable people; and

(c) the details of the expenditure, scheme-wise in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSION(SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

(a) to (c): The National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector (NCEUS) set up by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) in 2004 under the chairmanship of Dr. Arjun Sengupta, brought out a report on Conditions of Work and Promotion of Livelihoods in the Unorganised Sector which reported that 77% of the population had a per capita daily consumption expenditure of up to Rs. 20 in 2004-05 and termed this section of population as poor and vulnerable. This estimate is based on the data from 61st round of NSS on household consumption expenditure. However, the Committee did not provide any justification for using the cut-off amount of Rs.20 per day. Besides, the estimation of 77% population with per capita daily consumption expenditure of Rs. 20 is also erroneous since this percentage works out to be 60.5 percent as indicated in the Economic Survey 2008-09.

The Central Government is implementing a number of employment generation programmes to enhance the purchasing power of the poor that would eventually increase their expenditure capacity. This includes a massive wage employment programme named Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and expenditure of Rs.39,100 crore is reported to have been spent during 2009-10. Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) is a self employment programme, which is being implemented in the rural areas of the entire country. This programme is based on a holistic approach, which provides skills, assistance for setting up of economic activity along with support for marketing infrastructure and an amount of Rs.2114 crore is reported to have been spent during 2009-10. Swarna Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) with components of both wage and self employment is being implemented for urban poor and an amount of Rs. 428.69 crore has been spent under the scheme in the year 2009-10. Besides, Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) is a social security measure through which persons of old age belonging to BPL are given direct financial assistance. During 2009-10 an amount of Rs.4179.68 crores is reported to have been spent under the scheme.

In addition, the government is also implementing a number of flagship programmes such as Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Swasthaya Bima Yojana etc. which would enhance the productive capacity and employability of the people, especially that of poor and vulnerable.