

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2190
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2011
WIDENING INEQUALITIES
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Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the widening inequalities become glaring from the fact that while 100 individuals in a country of 120 crore population own wealth equal to one fourth of the GDP of the country while 84 crore Indians are forced to survive on less than Rs. 20 per day;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING, PARLIAMETARY AFFAIRS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES(DR. ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) & (b): The information on wealth of individuals is not maintained in the Planning Commission.

The National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector (NCEUS) set up by Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) in 2004 brought out a report on 'Conditions on Work and Promotion of Livelihoods in the Unorganised Sector'. In this report, it was reported that 77% of the population totaling 836 million people had a per capita daily consumption of up to Rs.20 in 2004-05 and this section of population was termed as poor and vulnerable. The Committee did not provide any justification for using the cut-off amount of Rs. 20 per day. However, the Economic Survey 2008-09, brought out that based on the calculations of data on household consumption expenditure for 2004-05 (NSS 61st round-2004-05), the population with less than Rs 20 per day per capita consumption expenditure was 60.5% only.

A comparative assessment of data on Monthly Per capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE) obtained from NSS 50th round (1993-94) vis-À-vis 61st round (2004-05) suggests that MPCE of all percentile groups of population has increased in real terms during this period. The rate of increase is about 10-12% for most of the lower percentile groups in the rural areas and higher for the top two groups.

(c): Reduction of economic inequalities has been one of the primary policy objectives of the development planning in India. The Eleventh Five Year Plan adopted the strategy of inclusive growth to ensure that the benefits of growth reach all the sections of the society. The government is implementing a number of flagship programmes such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Swarna Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), Indira Awas Yojana (IAW), Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan (SSA), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Rural Drinking Water Supply and Total Sanitation Campaign, Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) etc towards this end. In addition, implementation of Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) is one of the initiatives to strengthen the social security.