

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2555
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2011
AUGMENTING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
Nagar Shri Surendra Singh

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that as per the report of the National Sample Survey Organization several crore of citizens of the country survive on an income of only a few rupees per day;
- (b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to augment the employment opportunities adequately for the citizens in both the rural and urban areas, State-wise;
- (c) whether there is any proposal for enhancement of employment allowance to the unemployed and senior citizens as well; and
- (d) If so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a): According to the Household Consumer Expenditure Survey Report, 2009-10 of the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO), average monthly per capita expenditure of the lowest decile in India is Rs. 404.60 and Rs. 554.70 in rural and urban areas respectively.

(b): For promoting employment opportunities in the rural and urban areas, various schemes like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) and Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) are in operation across the country. In addition to the above the overall expansion of the Indian economy and enhancement of GDP growth over the years have significantly contributed for enlarging employment opportunities across the country in different sectors of the economy. Vocational training and empowerment of people through education enables greater employability of our people.

(c) & (d): Under MGNREGA, which provides for atleast 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work, there is a provision for paying unemployment allowance if employment is not provided. As there is no age limit in MGNREGA, senior citizens can also avail its benefits. According to Ministry of Rural Development, there is no proposal to enhance the unemployment allowance under MGNREGA.