

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4721
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2009
POVERTY ALLEVIATION
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Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the rate of poverty reduction in the country is slower than other regions of the world during the last ten years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken to speed up the rate of poverty alleviation in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT(SHRI SAUGATA ROY)

(a)&(b): Planning Commission has reported that from the information available in the document titled 'Global Economic Prospects for 2009' by the World Bank, it is observed that the poverty reduction in India is lower than some of the regions and higher than other regions of the world between the years 1990 and 2005.

The approach paper for the 11th Five Year Plan of the Planning Commission 'Towards faster and More Inclusive Growth' has observed by using comparable data on poverty reduction in India that the rate of reduction in poverty is only 0.8 percentage points per year which is at best a modest rate of decline. One reason for this could be that the growth rate in agriculture, the sector employing the largest number of poor people, has just about kept pace with the population growth rate during the last decade. Although growth of non-agricultural Gross Domestic Products (GDP) has been much higher, its benefits do not compensate for a deceleration in agricultural growth. In fact, much of the poverty reduction during 1999-2005 is because food prices hardly increased. The outcomes would therefore have been much better, had agricultural growth been more rapid.

(c): In the urban areas, an employment oriented Urban Poverty Alleviation scheme named Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), is being implemented, with effect from 1.12.1997. The scheme strives to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed and underemployed poor through encouraging the setting up of self-employment ventures and by providing wage employment by utilizing their labour for construction of socially and economically useful public assets. The scheme of SJSRY has been comprehensively revamped with effect from 2009-2010.

The revised SJSRY has following five major components:-

- (i) Urban Self Employment Programme (USEP) - Targeting individual urban poor for setting up of micro-enterprises.
- (ii) Urban Women Self-help Programme (UWSP) - Targeting urban poor women self-help groups for setting up of group-enterprises and providing them assistance for their thrift & credit activities.
- (iii) Skill Training for Employment Promotion amongst Urban Poor (STEP-UP) - Targeting urban poor for imparting quality training so as to enhance their employability for self-employment or better salaried employment.
- (iv) Urban Wage Employment Programme (UWEP) - Assisting urban poor by utilizing their labour for construction of socially and economically useful public assets, in towns having population less than 5 lakhs.
- (v) Urban Community Development Network (UCDN) - Assisting the urban poor in organizing themselves in self-managed community structures so as to gain collective strength to address the issues of poverty facing them and participate in the effective implementation of urban poverty alleviation programmes.

Further in the rural areas poverty alleviation schemes such as Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) and National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) are being implemented in the country.