

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PLANNING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3269  
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2011  
CONCENTRATION OF WEALTH  
Rajaram Shri Wakchaure Bhausahb

**Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:**

(a) whether large scale flow of money/ wealth is concentrated in the hands of few people whereas more than half of the population of the country could not afford to take two square meal a day which resulted in widening the gap between rich and poor in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to address the issue during the current five year plan?

**Answer**

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

(a): The information on wealth of individuals is not maintained in the Planning Commission. As per the report on 'Perceived Adequacy of Food Consumption in Indian Households 2004-2005' published by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO); about 97.4% of rural households and 99.4% of the urban households reported to have received enough food every day throughout the year. However, on the basis of the data on Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE) obtained from the report titled "Key Indicators of Household Consumer Expenditure in India 2009-2010", published by NSSO, the ratio of MPCE of top 20% to bottom 20% of the population is estimated to be 6.7 for the urban areas and 4.2 for rural areas in the year 2009-10 as against the corresponding figure of 6.3 and 4.1 respectively in the year 2004-05.

(b): Reduction of economic inequalities has always 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 (IAY), 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.