

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
FINANCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2704

ANSWERED ON:09.12.2011

RICH-POOR DIVIDE

Ganpatrao Shri Jadhav Prataprao;Reddy Shri K. Jayasurya Prakash;Shetkar Shri Suresh Kumar;Singh Smt. Meena;Siricilla Shri Rajaiah;Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.

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

- (a) whether the gulf between the rich and the poor, the developed regions and the underdeveloped regions has widened further;
- (b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the measures taken and proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a)to(c) No Sir, In order to ensure the benefits of growth reaches the poor and the disadvantaged sections of the society and to bridge the gap between the developed and the underdeveloped regions, the Government has been implementing numerous programmes in the social sector. The major programmes are; Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) both intended to provide wage and self employment respectively in the rural areas, Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM) to ensure drinking water security in rural areas, Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) for development of infrastructure, National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) to provide health care services, Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) to provide health insurance, Indra Awas Yojana (IAY) to provide dwelling units to the shelterless in rural areas, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) to provide all weather rural road connectivity, Sarv Siksha Abhiyan (SSY) to provide elementary education to all children in the 6-14 age group supported by Mid Day Meal programme and the recently launched programme for vocational education at the school level. Besides National Skill Development Corporation set up as part of three tier Skill Development Mission has been mandated to achieve the target of skill workforce of 150 million persons by 2022.