

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3300
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2012
PROSPERITY INDICES . DR.MAHENDRASINH P. CHAUHAN
Mahendrasinh Shri Chauhan

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) the place of India in the Global Prosperity Index and the gap between urban and rural prosperity in the country;
- (b) whether the urban prosperity has witnessed a decline in the country during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to improve the said situation?

Answer

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

(a): The report by the London based Legatum Institute titled 'The 2011 Legatum Prosperity Index' places India at 91st position in the ranking of prosperity of 110 countries. The ranking of prosperity for the years 2009 and 2010 was 78 and 88 respectively. The Prosperity Index is based on 89 variables grouped into 8 sub- indices taking into account both economic growth and citizen's quality of life. The data used for some of the sub-indices such as safety and security, personal freedom etc. may be subjective and cannot be commented upon. The Report does not provide prosperity indices for urban and rural areas separately.

(b) &(c): In India no official urban prosperity index has been prepared, but there has been a considerable improvement in the quality of life in the urban areas over the years as revealed by certain socio-economic indicators. The per capita income in urban areas has increased from Rs. 30095 in 1999-2000 to Rs. 44172 in 2004-05 and head count poverty ratio declined from 25.7 percent in 2004-05 to 20.9 percent in 2009-10. The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) in the urban areas has declined from 36 per thousand live births in 2008 to 31 per thousand live births in 2010, the overall literacy rate has improved from 79.9 percent in 2001 to 84.9 percent in 2011 and the percentage of urban households with access to drinking water source within or near the premises has improved from 90.6 percent in 2001 to 91.9 percent in 2011. Likewise, the percentage of urban households having electricity as the main source of lighting has also gone up from 87.6 percent in 2001 to 92.7 percent in 2011.

(d): The Government follows various development policies to achieve the optimum results in terms of promoting growth and well- being of the people. Some of the following specific programmes are being implemented for provision of basic services to the urban poor and for the alleviation of poverty:-

(i). Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP)/ Integrated Housing & Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) launched in 2005-06: The shelter and basic amenities requirements of urban poor are addressed through Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) (applicable to 65 identified cities) and Integrated Housing & Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) (applicable to cities/towns other than the 65 cities).

(ii). Revamped Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY): The scheme revamped in 2009-10 strives to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed and under employed poor, through encouraging the setting up of self-employment ventures by the urban poor living below the poverty line, and also up gradation of their skills to enable them to access market jobs or undertake self-employment.

(iii). Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY): The Government has announced a new scheme called Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY) for the slum dwellers and the urban poor in June 2009. This scheme is aimed at providing support to States that are willing to provide property rights to slum dwellers. A preparatory phase of the scheme called 'Slum Free City Plans Scheme' has been commenced from 2009-10.