

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:317

ANSWERED ON:14.03.2012

EARNING FOR LIVELIHOOD

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Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether more than 60% of the population in the country lives in rural areas;
- (b) if so, whether only 17% of rural people are able to earn their livelihood from the products of their farms;
- (c) if not, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to create new means of employment for the livelihood of the remaining rural people; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a): Rural population in the country is 68.84% as per Census of India, 2011- Rural Urban Distribution of Population.

(b)&(c): On the basis of the source of major income, 35.5% of the rural persons were engaged in self-employment in agriculture in 2009-10 according to the Statement 3.4 of National Sample Survey (NSS) Report No. 537 of the 66th Round. Taking into account the agricultural labour and subsidiary status, 67.9% of the usually working persons (principal status + subsidiary status) among rural persons are engaged in agriculture and allied activities according to the Statement 5.9.2 of the same Report.

(d) & (e): Various Ministries/Department/Organisations in the Government of India are implementing schemes for enhancing rural employment viz.(i) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) by the Ministry of Rural Development,(ii) Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)/National Rural Livelihoods Mission by the Ministry of Rural Development and (iii) Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) by the Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC).

The Government supports improved vocational training and skill development as a critical part of the employment strategy.

The National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), renamed as Aajeevika is being implemented in a mission mode. Aajeevika will support creation of strong institutions of the rural poor and livelihoods as well as diversifying into new livelihoods. Aajeevika will help the rural people through end to end solutions by ensuring forward and backward linkages. A new scheme Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP) has been initiated as a sub-component of the Aajeevika to meet the specific needs of women farmers and achieve socio-economic and technical empowerment of the rural women farmers, predominantly small and marginal farmers.