

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:206
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2012
POVERTY AND GDP GROWTH RATE
Thamaraiselvan Shri R.

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a need to reduce the number of people below poverty line by 10 per cent during the next five year period, or by an average 2 per cent each year, if a GDP growth of 8.5 per cent is to be achieved;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any step to reduce the number of people below poverty line; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Increase in growth rate is expected to result in poverty reduction. The principal objective of Government in economic policy formulation is to reduce poverty and to achieve GDP growth relatable to this primary objective. Higher growth reduce poverty by way of generating income and employment opportunities that are needed for improving living standards for the bulk of the population and also generating the resources needed for financing social sector programmes and improving infrastructure.

(c) & (d): Government has initiated various measures to improve the quality of life of the people and to reduce poverty in the country through direct intervention by implementing specific poverty reduction and mitigation programmes such as: Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS), Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission, Total Sanitation Campaign, Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), and National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) etc. All other policy initiatives of the government which have led to higher GDP growth in the country have individually and collectively contributed to raising the living standards of people over time and to the decline of absolute poverty and destitution. Over the years the sharp edges of acute poverty have been stunted as a result of various programmes and policies of the Government as also there has been a reduction in the percentage of people living below poverty.