

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2741
ANSWERED ON:28.08.2012
IMPROVING SLUM CONDITIONS IN SC/ST AREAS
Balram Shri P.

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a): whether the Government is aware of the observations made by the United Nations that millions living in slum conditions especially in the SC/ST dominated areas have improved and the Millennium Development target for shelter has been surpassed by 2.2 times;
- (b): if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereon; and
- (c): the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the condition of the slum dwellers especially in SC/ST dominated areas?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING & URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA)

(a) & (b): According to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Report 2012 prepared by the United Nations, the share of urban slum residents in the developing world has declined from 39% in the year 2000 to 33% in the year 2012. During this period, more than 200 million people gained access to improved water resources, improved sanitation facility or durable or less crowded housing, thereby exceeding the MDG target ahead of the 2020 deadline.

As per the Millennium Development Goals India Country Report 2011, the latest NSS results for the period July 2008-June 2009 reveal that there was a decline in the number of urban slums by about 13% in a period of about 15 years since 1993. The NSS results of 2008-09 compared with corresponding results of 2002 indicates that the conditions of slum dwellers in India's urban areas show signs of marginal improvement. In respect of house structures of slum dwellers, the Report states that the percentage of slums having majority of pucca houses has increased from 48% in 2002 to 57% in 2008-09 with decrease in the share of semi-pucca and katcha houses from 35% to 29% and from 18% to 14% respectively during 2002-2009.

However, the Millennium Development Goals India Country Report 2011 does not specifically indicate about improvement in slum conditions in SC/ST dominated areas.

(c): This Ministry is implementing the Basic Services to the Urban Poor and Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programmes under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission which focus on basic services to the urban poor and integrated development of slum.

In pursuance of the Government's vision of creating a Slum-free India, 'Rajiv Awas Yojana' (RAY) has been launched on 02.06.2011. The Phase I of Rajiv Awas Yojana is for a period of two years from the date of approval of the scheme. RAY advocates a 'whole-city, all slums, whole slum' approach to ensure that all categories of weaker sections including SC/ST, minorities and physically handicapped living in slums are covered. Further, the guidelines of the scheme stipulate that precedence is to given to slums with larger population of the deprived section i.e. the SC/ST and minorities while implementing the slum upgradation projects.