

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PLANNING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3137

ANSWERED ON:12.12.2012

GAP BETWEEN RURAL AND URBAN AREAS

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

- (a) whether the gap between the rural and the urban areas is continuously widening in terms of development and growth;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether there is huge gap in primary education and primary healthcare facilities provided to the urban and rural population; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken to bridge the gap in various sectors of development between the rural and urban areas?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS & PLANNING (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA)

(a) to (c): The difference between rural and urban per capita income is a crucial economic parameter to measure the rural urban disparity which has implication for other socio- economic disparities that are evidenced in various human development indicators such as those pertaining to education attainment, health status, etc. The per capita income at current prices in the rural areas increased from Rs. 10,652 in 1999-2000 to Rs. 16414 in the year 2004-05 and in urban areas it increased from Rs. 30095 to Rs. 44172 during the same period. The ratio of rural to urban all India per capita income has increased from 35.4% in 1999-00 to 36.9% in 2004-05 reflecting a marginal decline in rural-urban gap. The rural-urban gap has also narrowed down over the years in respect of indicators such as literacy rate, IMR, etc. The rural-urban gap in the literacy rate has gone down to 16.07 in 2011 in comparison to 21.18 in 2001. Similarly, Infant mortality rate (IMR) has come down from 72 per thousand live births in 2001 to 48 per thousand in 2011 in rural areas, whereas in urban areas it has come down from 42 to 29 during the same period as per Sample Registration System (SRS) of Registrar General of India (RGI). Thus, the rural-urban gap in IMR has reduced from 30 to 19 during 2001-2011.

(d): Reduction of rural and urban disparities has always been the priority of the Government's development policy. The strategy has been to generate employment opportunities in rural areas, develop rural infrastructure, provide better access to health, education, drinking water, sanitation, etc. in order to bring a tangible improvement in standard of living and quality of life of the rural masses. The Government has launched a number of programmes towards this end. Some of the major programmes include: Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS), etc.