

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PLANNING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:545  
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2013  
POVERTY IN RURAL AREAS  
Choudhary Shri Harish;Tudu Shri Laxman

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

- (a) whether poverty is more rampant in villages and rural areas in comparison to cities and urban areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the government proposes to give priority to poverty alleviation in rural areas and villages during the Twelfth Five Year Plan period; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) The Planning Commission estimates the number and proportion of people living Below Poverty Line (BPL) at the national level and at state levels for rural and urban areas separately. The latest estimates of poverty are available for the year 2009-10. As per these estimates, 33.80% of people in rural areas and 20.85% in urban areas are living below the poverty line. At national level, 28.81% of population is BPL in 2009-10.

(c) & (d) The Government has direct interventions for poverty alleviation through various programmes specially focusing on generation of employment, development of rural infrastructure, strengthening of rural livelihood and providing basic amenities to the rural people. The present programmes of Ministry of Rural Development such as (i) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) (ii) Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)/National Livelihood Mission (NRLM) now renamed as Aajeevika (iii) National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) and (iv) Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) are the steps towards eradication of rural poverty.