

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6797
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2013
INCREASE IN BPL FAMILIES
Singh Shri Bhola

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of families living Below Poverty Line (BPL) in the country during the last ten years has increased;
- (b) if so, the State-wise and year-wise details thereof; and
- (c) the reasons for increase/decline in number of BPL families in the country?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): No, Madam. On the basis of two latest Household Consumer Expenditure surveys conducted during 2004-05 and 2009-10, the number of persons living below poverty line in the country has declined from 40.7 crore in 2004-05 to 35.5 crore in 2009-10. However, for some States, the number of persons below poverty line has increased between 2004-05 and 2009-10. The State-wise details of change in number of persons living below poverty line during 2004-05 to 2009-10 are given at Annexure.

(c): The Government has implemented number of schemes 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 in the country.