

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3312
ANSWERED ON:12.02.2014
WORKERS UNDER POVERTY LINE
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Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether over half of India's working population in 2011-12 was under the \$2 per day poverty line as per the research findings of the Institute for Human Development;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the incidence of poverty is higher among the employed than the unemployed;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the corrective steps being taken in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): As per the 'India Labour and Employment Report 2014' published by the Institute for Human Development, the proportion of India's working population in 2011-12 under \$2 per day (at purchasing power parity) was 58.5 per cent. The report highlights that the primary reason for this is the large number of 'working poor' who are engaged in low-productivity activities in the unorganized sectors.

(c) & (d): According to the report, in 2011-12 the incidence of poverty among employed persons was 25% whereas among unemployed persons it was 21%. The report mentions that while the incidence of poverty is declining among both the unemployed and the employed, the numbers show that "low earning from employment, rather than unemployment, is the main source of poverty". Amongst workers, the incidence of poverty is the highest among casual workers.

(e): The Government has taken several initiatives such as Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), Mahatma Gandhi National

Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and Rajiv Gandhi Shramik Kalyan Yojana to improve livelihood security of workers. Under the Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008, National Social Security Board has been constituted for recommending formulation of social security schemes covering health and maternity benefits, life and disability and old age protection. Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) was launched to provide smart card based health insurance cover of Rs. 30,000 per annum on a family floater basis of size 5 in the unorganised sector. It has been extended to Building and Construction Workers, Beedi Workers, Domestic Workers, railway porters, street vendors, MGNREGA workers who have worked for more than 15 days during the preceding financial year, sanitation workers, mine workers, rickshaw pullers, rag pickers, auto/taxi drivers.

The Government has also launched Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana (AABY) to provide insurance against death and disability. Indira Gandhi Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) has been extended to all citizens above the age of 60 years and living below the poverty line. For persons aged above 80 years the amount of pension has been raised from Rs. 200 to Rs. 500 per month.

In order to increase the productivity of workers, the Government has initiated National Skill Development Mission which aims to impart employment-oriented vocational training to 8 crore people over the next five years by working with state governments/State Skill Missions and incorporating the private sector (through PPPs and for-profit vocational training) and NGOs.