

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PLANNING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:995  
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2009  
PER CAPITA INCOME OF POOR  
Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun

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

- (a) whether 836 million Indian survive on less than Rs.20/- per day;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the remedial measures adopted or proposed to be taken by the Government to raise per capita income of the poor?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

(a) & (b): The National Commission on Enterprises in the Unorganized Sector in its report suggested that 836 million Indians (77% of the total population in 2004-05) had per capita consumption expenditure of less than Rs. 20 per day. However, according to Economic Survey 2008-09, it was observed that based on the calculations using data for 2004-05 (NSS , 61st Round ), the per capita consumption expenditure of 68.1% of the population was less than Rs. 20 per day. Thus, actually 663 million Indians had per capita consumption expenditure of less than Rs. 20 per day during 2004-05.

(c): A number of schemes and programmes are being implemented by the Government including National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) of the Ministry of Rural Development, which guarantees at least 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to every rural household, Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojanan (SGSY) provides self employment to the rural poor who are organized into Self Help Groups (SGHs) and are provided income generating assets through a mix of bank credit and subsidy. Under Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) the shelter less rural BPL households are provided financial assistance for construction of houses which provides them security. National Social Assurance programme (NSAP) provides social security in the form of IGNOAPS (Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme), pension scheme for widows and disabled etc, Aam Admi Bhima yojana, a Health Insurance Scheme for the unorganized sector works are the other measures taken by the government to alleviate poverty by raising their per capita income.

Similarly the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation is implementing Swarna Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) which aims to encourage urban self-employment through subsidy and loan with a component of skill development.