

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2153
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2009
GAP BETWEEN RURAL AND URBAN SECTOR
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Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the gap between the rural and urban sectors is everwidening as far as development and growth are concerned;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether there are serious disparities in primary education and primary health facilities provided to urban and rural people; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken to bridge the gap between development in rural and urban areas in various sectors of development?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): There is a direct relationship between aggregate poverty and average consumption. National Sample Survey (NSS) consumption data relating to Monthly Per Capita Expenditure (MPCE) for three years between 2004-05 and 2006-07 indicates improvement in consumption pattern across all MPCE (Monthly Per Capita Expenditure) levels both in rural and urban areas. This is indicative not only of favorable poverty reduction trends but also of the inclusive growth and development in rural and urban areas. The All India Percentage of Rural and Urban Population by MPCE levels is given at Annexure -I.

(c) & (d): To remove the disparities between rural and urban areas with regard to availability of primary education and health facilities, the Government has already taken a major initiative to implement the Flagship programmes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) in the education sector and National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in the primary health sector. Creation of rural infrastructure in education and primary health sectors is expected to narrow down the gap between the rural and urban areas. Similarly, for alleviating poverty in rural areas, a comprehensive wage employment programme namely National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) is being implemented which guarantees 100 days wage employment to all the rural households in a financial year. Swarn Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) is a holistic self employment generation program under which rural poor are organized into Self Help Groups (SHGs) and are provided assistance through a mix of credit and subsidy to set up self employment units. The rural poor are also provided financial assistance for construction of a house under Indira Awas Yojana (IAY). Building rural infrastructure through Bharat Nirman primarily aims at improving the living conditions of rural masses.

Annexure-I

All India Percentage of Rural and Urban Population by MPCE levels 2004-07

MPCE % Population below the level MPCE % Population below the level
(Rs.) 2006-07 2005-06 2004-05 (Rs.) 2006-07 2005-06 2004-05
(At current Rural (At current Urban
prices) prices)

235	1.2	2	2.8	335	1.5	3	3.5
270	3.2	4.5	6.1	395	3.9	6.3	7.4
320	7.5	11.4	14.4	485	9.5	13.3	15.9
365	12.7	18.7	23.9	580	17.4	21.8	25.8
410	20.8	27.9	33.9	675	25.8	30.6	35.7
455	29.1	36.5	43.6	790	35	41.6	45.8
510	39	46.6	54.4	930	46.1	52.3	56.1
580	50.3	58.9	65.3	1100	57.2	62.7	65.9
690	64.9	72.3	77.5	1380	70.3	75.7	77.4
890	80.3	86.1	88.8	1880	82.9	86.5	87.8
1155	90.6	93.2	94.7	2540	91.4	93.5	93.9

Source: Economic Survey 2008-09.