

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PLANNING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2254  
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2014  
INCOME DISPARITY  
Kataria Shri Rattan Lal

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

- (a) whether income disparity is growing day by day in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of the survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any step to minimise the disparity between the rich and the poor; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE  
(RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a) & (b): Since, the data on distribution of income is not compiled centrally, the data on household consumption expenditure collected by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) could be used as a proxy to capture the economic inequality in terms of consumption expenditure. Based on consumption expenditure data, the Gini coefficient (measuring the inequality between different expenditure classes of the population) in rural areas is observed to be almost same in 2004-05 and 2011-12 at 0.27 and 0.28 respectively. In the urban areas, the Gini coefficient has increased marginally from 0.35 in 2004-05 to 0.37 in 2011-12.

(c) & (d): Reduction of economic inequalities has been one of the primary policy objectives of the development planning in India. The Government has initiated various measures to improve the quality of life of the people and to benefit the people at the lower end of the income distribution in the country through direct intervention by implementing specific poverty reduction and mitigation programmes. This includes Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM), Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY), Indira Awas Yojana (LAY), National Health Mission (NHM), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM), National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), Swachh Bharat Mission etc. These interventions are expected to yield better results over time in terms of reduction in the gap between rich and poor and overall balanced development in the country.