

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6047
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2015
BPL PERSONS
Sonkar Shri Vinod Kumar

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of people living below poverty line in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether the number of people living below poverty line has registered an increase during the last three years and the current year; and
- (c) if so, the measure taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

(a): The erstwhile Planning Commission estimated poverty on the basis of monthly per capita consumption expenditure (MPCE) as criteria for defining poverty line that separates poor from the non poor. The poverty lines and poverty ratios for 2011-12 have been computed following the extant Tendulkar methodology according to which the national poverty line is estimated as Rs. 816 per capita per month for rural areas. The number of persons living below poverty line in 2011-12 has been estimated at 2166.6 lakh in rural areas. The number of persons living below poverty line in 2011-12 State/UT wise is given.

(b): The number of people living below poverty line in the rural areas of the country has reduced from 3266.6 lakh in 2004-05 to 2166.6 lakh in 2011-12.

(c): However, the Ministry of Rural Development, inter alia, is implementing Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) and Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) in rural areas of the country, through State Governments and UT Administrations. The objective of these programmes is to bring about overall improvement in the quality of life in rural areas through employment generation, development of rural infrastructure and provision of other basic amenities and they help in alleviation of rural poverty directly and indirectly.