

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 2721

ANSWERED ON: 17.08.2011

DISPARITY BETWEEN RICH AND POOR

NEERAJ SHEKHAR

ANANT KUMAR HEGDE

RAJIV RANJAN (LALAN) SINGH

P. JAYA PRADA NAHATA

YASHVIR SINGH

Will the Minister of

PLANNING

be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether as per the recent survey report of the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO), the gap between the poor and the rich has widened in the recent past;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the ratio of the poor and the rich in each State/UT;
- (c) the reasons for increase in the difference in income of the poor and the rich;
- (d) the details of per capita income in rural and urban areas as per the NSSO report, State-wise;
- (e) whether this increase in gap in the income of the poor and the rich has ultimately led to the rise in number of BPL families;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the action taken by the Government to bridge the gap between the poor and the rich?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) to (d): National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) has recently released the key results of the Household Consumption Survey covering the period July, 2009 to June, 2010 in the document titled "Key Indicators of Household Consumer Expenditure in India 2009-2010." The report compiles the Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE) - for rural and urban areas separately in terms of decile class of MPCE . On the basis of the data contained in the survey report, the ratio of MPCE of top 20% to bottom 20% of the population is estimated to be 6.7% for the urban areas and 4.2 % for rural areas in the year 2009-10 as against the corresponding figure of 6.3% and 4.1% respectively in the year 2004-05. The ratio of MPCE of top 20% of population to bottom 20% state-wise is given at

Annexure-I. The state-wise per capita income is not compiled by the NSSO.

The State wise Per Capita Expenditure for rural and urban areas separately for the year 2009-10 is given at Annexure-II. Further, distribution of per capita income to rural and urban areas at state level is neither compiled by NSSO nor by any agency in the official statistical system. The level of consumption expenditure for all groups of population has increased during the period 2004-05 to 2009-10, but the increase in expenditure level of top 20% of the population is comparatively higher.

(e) to (g): No Madam. As per the Planning Commission's estimates, the poverty ratio has declined from 36% in 1993-94 to 27.5% in 2004-05. The poverty ratio that has been recomputed by the Tendulkar Committee and accepted by the Government also reveals decline in poverty ratio of similar magnitude from 45.1% to 37.2% during 1993-1994 to 2004-05.

Reduction in income disparities and upliftment of the socio-economic conditions of people of low-income households has always been the priority of the Government's development policy. The strategy has been to generate employment opportunities in rural & backward areas and also to develop infrastructure to bring a tangible improvement in the income and standard of living of the people. Additionally, the Government is implementing a number of poverty alleviation programmes such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA), Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewable Mission (JNNURM), Swarna Jyanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), etc. intended to mitigate poverty and improve the living standards of the people.