

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3052
ANSWERED ON:05.09.2007
PROBLEMS PERTAINING POVERTY, HUNGER
Yerrannaidu Shri Kinjarapu

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to find out solutions to a wide range of problems pertaining to poverty, hunger, diseases and illiteracy in the country;
- (b) if not, the specific reasons for not formulating any new policy to fight these problems for the protection of poor people in the country; and
- (c) if so, the details of the schemes undertaken or proposed to be taken up by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN)

(a) to (c): The Government has been implementing several programmes in order to extend access to essential public services such as health, education, clean drinking water, sanitation, etc. for improving the standard of living of people, in general, and for people living below the poverty line, in particular. Important among these are National Rural Health Mission, Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, Swajal Dhara, Total Sanitation Campaign for improving basic services and infrastructure, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and Indira Awaas Yojana. The Approach Paper to the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-08 to 2011-12), as approved by the National Development Council, has set the growth target for the Eleventh Five Year Plan period at 9% per year and aims at putting the economy on a sustainable growth trajectory with a growth of approximately 10% by the end of its period. For the rural economy the Approach Paper to the Eleventh Five Year Plan aims at achieving a growth rate of 4% in agriculture sector. For that there is a focus on improving rural connectivity, scaling up of irrigation potential creation, watershed management, rainwater harvesting and ground water recharge, revitalization of the extension system which links universities and best practices to farmers, etc. The Approach Paper mentions about reducing the disparities across regions and communities by ensuring access to basic physical infrastructure as well as health and education services to all. The Approach Paper has also set monitorable targets for other dimensions of performance such as, in the area of income and poverty, education, health, women and children issues, infrastructure and environment, reflecting the inclusiveness of this growth.