

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:312
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2010
URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION MEASURES
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Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of people living below the poverty line in the urban areas in the country;
- (b) the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the urban poverty alleviation measures have not been fully successful in containing the urban poverty;
- (d) if so, the facts in this regard alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (e) the details of the urban poverty alleviation programmes and the funds allocated, released and expenditure incurred thereon as reported by the States/Union Territories alongwith the number of beneficiaries there under during each of the last three years, State/UT-wise; and
- (f) the monitoring mechanism in place for implementation of the aforesaid programmes and to check misutilisation or diversion of funds by the States/UTs provided thereunder?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING & URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION(KUMARI SELJA)

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 312 FOR 16-4-2010 REGARDING URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION MEASURES

(a) Planning Commission releases estimates of urban poor from time to time based on the national sample survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). As per the latest such estimates of NSSO (61st Round) for the year 2004-2005, based on the Uniform Recall Period (URP) method, the estimated number of urban poor is 80.8 million which is 25.7% of the urban population.

(b). Major reasons behind urban poverty in the country are:

- (i). Structural - which include socially constructed constraints to opportunities for low-income groups;
- (ii). Influx of a large number of workers to cities without commensurate job opportunities and availability of housing and basic amenities;
- (iii). High cost of living, including cost of health care and medical facilities, housing, transport and education;
- (iv). Lack of urban planning, especially that for housing low-income categories and provision of land for informal sector activities pursued by the urban poor.
- (v). Absence of adequate regulation to protect the economic interest of the poor; and
- (vi). Lack of involvement of poor in urban planning and developmental process.

(c) & (d). According to the poverty estimates released by Planning Commission based on the Uniform Recall Period (URP) method, though the absolute number of urban poor has increased from 763.37 Lakhs in 1993-1994 to 807.96 Lakhs in 2004-2005, the percentage of urban poor has decreased from 32.4% to 25.7% during the same period.

(e) With a view to ameliorate the living conditions of urban poor, Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation is implementing an employment oriented urban poverty alleviation scheme named Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) since 1.12.1997. The scheme strives to provide gainful employment to the urban poor by assisting them to set up of individual/group enterprises as well as

utilising their labour for the construction of socially useful public assets. The funds allocated, released and expenditure reported by States/Union Territories under the Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) during last 3 years, State-wise, Year-wise are given at Annexure-I and the number of beneficiaries, as reported under this, during last 3 years, State-wise and year-wise are given at Annexure-II

(f). The restructured scheme of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) is implemented and monitored through designated State level Nodal Agencies in each State/UTs. The revised Guidelines of SJSRY envisages that at the State/UT level, a State Level Monitoring Committee headed by the Secretary in charge of Urban Local Bodies/State Urban Development Agency, having members from Line Departments, Banks, Micro-Finance Institutions, Civil Society Organisations and other stakeholders be set up to effectively guide and monitor the Scheme. At the National level, a Steering Committee headed by Secretary in the Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation and having members from the States/UTs, Ministry of Finance, other Ministries, Reserve Bank of India and other stakeholders steers and monitors the Scheme. State/UT Governments are required to submit quarterly physical and financial progress reports and utilisation certificates to the Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation regarding proper utilization of Central funds as per the guidelines of the scheme. The Ministry also holds national/regional/state level reviews to monitor the scheme from time to time.