

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Survey of poor families in rural areas

† *122. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the poor people in rural areas of Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and some other States are making both their ends meet by daily earning of Rs. 9 to Rs. 12 only;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted in relation to everyday living of the poor families in rural areas of these States;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps Government are taking to improve the living standard of the poor of the rural areas in those States?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Rural Development have not conducted any survey in relation to daily earning by the poor people in rural areas of the country including Chhattisgarh, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh etc. As per the information available, data on daily earnings is not compiled. However, the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) in its Report No. 508 of NSS 61st Round (July 2004-June 2005) have published the data on State-wise percentages of rural and urban population below specified levels of Monthly Per Capita Expenditure (MPCE). The MPCE distribution for the major States is given in the enclosed statement (see below).

This data is used by the Planning Commission to work out the poverty estimates in the country. Such estimates based on 61st Round of NSSO Survey is yet to be completed by the Planning Commission.

(d) In order to improve the living conditions of the rural poor of the rural areas, Ministry is implementing a number of programmes with the objective of providing employment, developing infrastructure, providing basic amenities and strengthening the livelihood in rural areas. The rural development programmes have been accorded the priority which is evident from the fact that the annual outlay of the Ministry which was Rs. 18216.40 crore in 2004-05 has been increased to Rs. 36560.00

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

crore in 2007-08. For wage employment programme, the Ministry is implementing the Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) through which durable economic and community assets are also created. With effect from 2nd February, 2006, National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) has come into operation in 200 selected districts of the country which aims to enhance the livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult member volunteer to do unskilled manual work. From the next financial year, this Act is to be extended to another 130 districts of the country and the SGRY in these districts will be subsumed into National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS). Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) is a self-employment programme where approach is to organize the rural poor in the form of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and encourage them to take up the economic activity by providing them assistance through a mix of credit and subsidy. Under Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), assistance is provided to the rural poor to construct the houses so that a better living environment is available to them. The programmes of Rural Drinking Water Supply and Total Sanitation Campaign are the other initiatives taken by the Government to provide the basic amenities to the rural people to improve the living standards. The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) and the Area Development Programmes aim at providing rural connectivity and enhancing the livelihood respectively. All these steps aim at improving the overall living conditions of the rural poor.

Statement

State-wise percentage of rural and urban population below specified levels of MPCE

State	Percentage of rural population below Rs. 365 (= Rs. 12 per day)	Percentage of rural population with below Rs. 270 (= Rs. 9 per day)	State	Percentage of urban population with MPCE below Rs. 365 (= Rs. 12 per day) below Rs. 270 (= Rs. 9 per day)	
1	2	3	4	5	6
Orissa	57	31	Bihar	55	28
Chhattisgarh	55	24	Orissa	50	25
Madhya Pradesh	47	21	Uttar Pradesh	44	17

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RAJYA SABHA

1	2	3	4	5	6
Bihar	46	15	Chhattisgarh	44	20
Jharkhand	46	15	Madhya Pradesh	43	18
Uttar Pradesh	33	10	Rajasthan	36	10
Karnataka	32	7	Jharkhand	33	14
Maharashtra	30	11	Andhra Pradesh	33	8
Tamil Nadu	26	6	Karnataka	31	12
Andhra Pradesh	25	8	West Bengal	29	8
West Bengal	24	5	Tamil Nadu	26	7
Gujarat	21	5	Maharashtra	25	8
Assam	17	3	Assam	23	4
Rajasthan	17	3	Kerala	22	7
Haryana	7	1	Haryana	22	7
Kerala	7	2	Punjab	18	1
Punjab	4	1	Gujarat	16	3
All India	30	10	All India	30	10

Source: Table p-3-Levei and Pattern of Consumer Expenditure, 2004-05 - NSS 61st Round

Induction of Arjun Tanks

125. MS. MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- whether the Arjun Tank has been approved by Indian Army for adoption;
- if not, the reasons therefor;
- if so, when and how many Arjun Tanks have been inducted so far in Indian Army,
- whether the Indian Army has placed further orders for Arjun Tank; and
- if so, whether the order is sufficient to maintain the assembly lines of the Tank?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) An indent for 124 Arjun Tanks has been placed on Heavy Vehicle Factory (HVF), Avadi by the Indian Army. Five tanks were delivered to the Army in 2005. The next lot of nine Arjun Tanks *are* currently undergoing Joint