

Increase in economic inequality

3061. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the economic inequality amongst Indian population has been increasing;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has failed in balanced regional growth;
- (d) if not, the data and the details, region-wise;
- (e) whether Government has failed in keeping up with the objective of growth and distribution; and
- (f) if not, the manner in which Government proposes to correct the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA): (a) and (b) On the basis of household consumption expenditure data collected by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), the inequality in consumption expenditure measured in terms of Gini Coefficient has increased marginally from 0.27 in 2004-05 to 0.28 in 2009-10 in rural areas and for urban areas it has increased from 0.35 in 2004-05 to 0.37 in 2009-10. International experience suggests that the inequalities tend to increase in the early phase of development. However, because of sound economic fundamentals, the high rate of economic growth that India witnessed recently has enormously improved the capacity to make a decisive impact on the quality of life of the masses, especially the poor and the marginalized.

(c) and (d) An important feature of the Eleventh Plan is that most States have experienced sustained high rates of growth including several of the economically weaker States which have demonstrated an improvement in their growth rates. Amongst them are Bihar, Orissa, Assam, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand and to some extent Uttar Pradesh. According to the available data, no State has averaged GSDP (Gross State Domestic Product) growth of less than 6.0 per cent during the Eleventh Plan period. The State wise average growth per year in GSDP during the Eleventh Plan (2007-12) is given in the Statement (*See below*).

The Government has been implementing specific schemes to reduce regional imbalances in development in the country. These include Backward Regions Grant

Fund (BRGF) launched in 2006-07 to fill the critical gaps in development in the identified backward districts. BRGF includes the district component covering 272 districts, special plan for Bihar, State component includes the KBK districts of Orissa, special Plan for West Bengal, the drought mitigation package for Bundelkhand region spread over Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh and Integrated Action Plan (IAP). Besides, there are other area development programmes such as Hill Area Development Programme (HADP), Western Ghats Development Programme (WGDP) and Border Area Development Programme (BADP) etc. In addition, several on-going Centrally Sponsored Schemes and State specific schemes are expected to accelerate the growth rate of GSDP of these States.

(e) and (f) The rate of growth of GDP has been 7.9% per year during the Eleventh Five Year Plan. For re-distribution, the Government has been allocating substantial amount of resources for income redistributive poverty alleviation programmes. These include programmes and schemes such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS), Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission (RGDWM), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) and social security measures like National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), Rashtriya Swasthaya Bima Yojana (RSBY) etc. The combined impact of growth and re-distribution has improved the levels of living and quality of life of the people. This is reflected in the decline in the poverty ratio by 1.5 percentage points per year during the five years 2004-05 to 2009-10 as compared to 0.7 percentage points per year during the eleven years 1993-94 to 2004-05.

Statement

*State-wise average growth per year in GSDP during Eleventh
Five Year Plan (2007-12)*

Sl. No.	State/UTs	Growth rate (%)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8.3
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	9.4
3.	Assam	6.9

1	2	3
4.	Bihar	11.1
5.	Jharkhand	9.3
6.	Goa	9.0
7.	Gujarat	9.6
8.	Haryana	9.1
9.	Himachal Pradesh	8.1
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	6.0
11.	Karnataka	7.6
12.	Kerala	8.0
13.	Madhya Pradesh	9.4
14.	Chhattisgarh	8.4
15.	Maharashtra	8.6
16.	Manipur	6.5
17.	Meghalaya	8.1
18.	Mizoram	11.0
19.	Nagaland	6.2
20.	Odisha	8.2
21.	Punjab	6.7
22.	Rajasthan	7.2
23.	Sikkim	22.8
24.	Tamil Nadu	7.7
25.	Tripura	8.7
26.	Uttar Pradesh	6.9
27.	Uttarakhand	13.7
28.	West Bengal	6.9

1	2	3
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	10.4
30.	Chandigarh	8.1
31.	Delhi	11.5
32.	Puducherry	9.0
	All-India GDP (2004-05 base)	7.9

Source: Central Statistics Office.

New steel policy

3062. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to formulate new steel policy; and

(b) if so, by when the new policy is likely to be finalized?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As the matter involves detailed discussions with various stakeholders and with different Ministries/Departments, at this stage it is difficult to indicate by when the new Policy will be finalized.

Rise in rural steel consumption

3063. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that rural consumption of steel in India has risen from 2 (2005) to 9.8 kg. (2011) per capita-five-fold growth in six years;

(b) in what manner this has affected the business of Government steel companies;

(c) whether there is any significant rise in the competition from the private companies; and

(d) the steps Government has taken to ensure the quality of steel supplied?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.