

Decline in BPL population in urban areas

835. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as per the poverty estimates released by the Planning Commission, the percentage of population below poverty line in urban areas has declined from 25.7 percent in 2004-05 to 13.7 percent in 2011-12;

(b) if so, the major schemes that have been implemented;

(c) the present figures in this regard; and

(d) whether any new schemes have been launched in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (DR. GIRIJA VYAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation was implementing the scheme of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) *w.e.f.* 1.12.1997, which aimed to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed and under-employed poor, by encouraging setting up of self employment ventures by the urban poor living below the poverty line, skills training and also through providing wage employment by utilizing their labour for construction of socially and economically useful public assets.

(c) A total of 13,06,904 beneficiaries have been assisted under Urban Self Employment Programme (USEP), 31,51,517 persons have been skill trained under Skill Training for Employment Promotion amongst Urban Poor (STEP-UP) and 6,62,821 women beneficiaries have been assisted for setting up Group micro enterprises under Urban Women Self-help Programme (UWSP) components of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) since its inception.

(d) The Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation has launched a "National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM)" *w.e.f.* 24th September, 2013 by replacing the existing Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY). The NULM will focus on organizing urban poor in self help groups, creating opportunities for skill development leading to market-based employment and helping them to set up self-employment ventures by ensuring easy access to credit. The Mission is aimed at providing shelter equipped with essential services to the urban homeless in a phased manner. In addition, the Mission would also address livelihood concerns of the urban street vendors.