

Gap between poor and rich people in urban areas

1345. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has made any assessment of huge gap in poor and rich people in urban areas, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the reason for this gap despite spending so much money on the social sector schemes, particularly for the poor's in the country; and
- (c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for resolving huge gap of rich and poor, while taking initiative for improving the living conditions of the poor in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (RAOINDERJIT SINGH): (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 in urban areas from 0.35 in 2004-05 to 0.37 in 2011-12. International experience suggests that the inequalities tend to increase in the early phase of development. Besides, a number of factors are contributing to the growing inequality in the urban areas such as continued rural to urban migration, slowdown in industrial sector especially manufacturing sector and lack of skilled labour force. However, the recent revival of economic growth prospects has improved the capacity to make a decisive impact on the quality of life of the masses, especially the poor and the marginalized.

(c) Reduction of economic inequalities has been one of the primary policy objectives of the development planning in India. The Government has initiated various measures to improve the quality of life of the people and to benefit the people at the lower end of the income distribution in the country through direct intervention by implementing specific poverty reduction and mitigation programmes. This includes Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM), Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY), Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), National Health Mission (NHM), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM), National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), Swachh Bharat Mission, etc. These interventions are expected to yield better results over a period of time in terms of reduction in the gap between rich and poor and overall balanced development in the country.