

Filling vacant posts through UPSC

†277. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) total number of vacant posts of IAS, IPS and other appointments made under UPSC in other services also till date;
- (b) the total number of posts for which advertisement has been put out; and
- (c) by when these vacant posts would be filled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): (a) The details of vacancies in India Administrative Service (IAS) and Indian Police Service (IPS) as on 01.01.2018 are as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of the Service	Total Authorized Strength	Officers in-position	Cadre Gap
1.	IAS	6553	5104	1449
2.	IPS	4940	3970	970

The vacancy position in respect of other services is not centrally maintained.

(b) For Civil Services Examination (CSE) - 2018, a total of 782 vacancies (tentative) has been advertised by UPSC on 07.02.2018 in its notice of Examination for 24 (twenty four) participating services. In Direct Recruitment through selection, 896 posts have been advertised by UPSC.

(c) The occurrence of vacancies and its filling up is an ongoing process.

Amount spent on food and energy subsidy

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

- (a) whether the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has estimated that India could provide a universal basic income (UBI) of ₹2,600 a year to every person if it eliminates food and energy subsidies;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard indicating how much amount has been spent on food and energy subsidies during the last three years, State-wise;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government is considering to eliminate food and energy subsidies by providing a universal basic income, particularly to every needy people in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its publication, Fiscal Monitor: Tracking Inequality (October 2017), had attempted to examine the benefits of Universal Basic Income (UBI) to reform Public Distribution System (PDS) and energy prices (especially fuel *viz.* petrol, diesel, kerosene, LPG, etc.) in India. The Report, *inter-alia* mentioned that the combined fiscal cost of the PDS and energy subsidies in 2011-12, would finance an annual uniform UBI for every person of ₹2,600, equivalent to about 20 per cent of median per capita consumption in that year.

(b) In order to ensure that essential commodities especially food, fertilizers, kerosene and LPG are available to the large section of the population at affordable prices, Government of India has been making significant subsidy provisions in the Union Budgets from time to time. Besides, many State Governments also provide subsidies for certain essential goods and power especially for farmers, from the respective State Budgets. In so far as Central Government is concerned, the subsidy provisions for these goods in the last three years are given in the Table below:—

Table: Major Subsidies Provided by the Central Government (₹ crore)

	2016-17	2017-18 (RE)	2018-19 (BE)
Food Subsidy	110173	140282	169323
Fertilizer Subsidy	66313	64974	70080
Petroleum Subsidy,	27539	24460	24933
of which			
LPG	18678	15656	20378
Kerosene	8861	8804	4555

(c) and (d) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to eliminate food and energy subsidies by providing a Universal Basic Income. Earlier, the Economic Survey 2016-17 had a separate dedicated chapter on UBI highlighting its

potential benefits, fiscal costs and challenges in implementation. The Survey itself had recognized that UBI is an idea whose time has come, perhaps not for immediate implementation, but at least for serious public deliberation.

BPL people in country

279. SHRI D. RAJA : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has been able to reduce the number of people living below poverty line considerably during the last few years; and

(b) if so, the details of the number of people living in poverty according to various studies, national as well as international agencies and the basis of measuring poverty rate in each study?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (RAO Inderjit Singh): (a) and (b) The official poverty estimates are based on Large Sample Surveys on Household Consumer Expenditure carried out by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. The methodology for estimation of poverty followed by the erstwhile Planning Commission was based on the recommendations made by the experts in the field from time to time. The latest data of Large Sample Survey on Household Consumer Expenditure has been collected by NSSO in its 68th round conducted in 2011-12. Based on this data, the erstwhile Planning Commission estimated poverty lines and poverty ratio in 2011-12 following the Tendulkar Committee methodology and released through a Press Note issued on 22nd July 2013. According to this Press Note the poverty line has been defined on the basis of Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE) as the criterion. For the year 2011-12, the poverty line at all India level has been estimated as Monthly Per-capita Consumption Expenditure of ₹ 816 for rural areas and ₹ 1000 for urban areas. According to Press Note, the poverty ratio in the country has come down from 37.2 percent in 2004-05 to 21.9 per cent in 2011-12. In rural areas, it has reduced from 41.8 percent during 2004-05 to 25.7 per cent during 2011-12 whereas in urban areas the poverty ratio has declined from 25.7 per cent to 13.7 per cent during the same period. The number of persons living below poverty line 'in India has been estimated as 27 crore in 2011-12. The NSSO has not published data of Large Sample Survey on Household Consumer Expenditure after 2011-12.