

(Chittorgarh Fort)-Jaisalmer (Jaisalmer Fort)-Hanumangarh (Kalibangan, Bhatner Fort and Gogamedi)-Jalore (Jalore Fort)-Udaipur (Pratap Gaurav Kendra)-Dholpur (Bagh-i-Nilofar and Purani Chawni)-Nagaur (Meera Bai Smarak) in Rajasthan under Swadesh Darshan Scheme'.

No proposal has been received for development of sites related to Meera Bai in Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat.

Immunisation of children and pregnant women in Punjab under UIP

*206. SARDAR BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the numbr of children and pregnant women still to be immunised, under the Universal Immunisation Programme, in Punjab against the threatening diseases; and

(b) whether Government proposes to take action on the same without further loss of time?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) As per the report of National Family Health Survey-4 (NFHS-4)-2015-16, around 89% children aged 12-23 months are fully immunized and similarly 89% of the pregnant women in Punjab received two or more doses of Tetanus Toxoid (TT) Vaccine.

(b) Government has launched Mission Indradhanush with an aim to increase the full immunisation coverage to 90% through focus on pockets of low immunisation coverage. During the various phases of Mission Indradhanush, 14 districts of Punjab have been covered. Further, 1261 villages across 22 districts and 461 villages across 2 districts were also covered during Mission Indradhanush under Gram Swaraj Abhiyan and Extended Gram Swaraj Abhiyan respectively. During various phases of Mission Indradhanush, 1,94,674 children and 42,337 pregnant women have been vaccinated. Further, strengthening of routine immunisation microplans and awareness generation activities have been taken up to improve the immunization coverage and sustain the gains of Mission Indradhanush.

Removing economic inequality

†*207. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that economic inequality is constantly increasing in the country causing poor people to become poorer and rich people to become even richer;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the details of steps taken by Government in that direction to remove the increasing economic inequality and the reasons due to which the steps taken in this regard are not yielding desired result; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Sir, Based on the Quinquennial Household Consumer Expenditure Surveys of the NSSO conducted in 2004-05 (61st round) and 2011-12 (68th round), the Gini coefficient using Mixed Reference Period (measuring the inequality between different expenditure classes of the population) in rural areas has remained almost the same in 2004-05 and 2011-12 at 0.27 and 0.28 respectively. In the urban areas, the Gini coefficient has increased marginally from 0.35 in 2004-05 to 0.37 in 2011-12. This indicates almost no deterioration of inequality status in India.

(b) to (c) The primary policy objective of the Government is development of all segments of the population. The Government has been implementing various programmes/schemes for creating better employment opportunities, strengthening social infrastructure and providing basic amenities like water, electricity, roads, sanitation and housing. Programmes such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act Scheme (MGNREGA), Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) and Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) etc. are being implemented by the Government in both rural and urban areas of the country which aim to create directly and indirectly additional employment opportunities to reap the benefits of the demographic dividend. The Prime Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana strives to achieve financial inclusion by ensuring that the economically weaker sections have access to bank accounts.

Several other important programmes seek to provide durable assets and financing facilities to poorer sections to help them raise their income and consumption levels. Such programmes include Swachh Bharat Mission, Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)/National Food Security Act (NFSA), Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), Stand-up India scheme etc. Further, for expanding the social security net, Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), the largest health protection scheme has been rolled out from October 2018 for providing secondary and tertiary care hospitalization. These interventions are expected to save the above poverty line households (APL) not to fall in poverty on account of medical emergencies and help poor families to be saved from the burden of such diseases.