

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1434
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.03.2022

WIDENING GAP BETWEEN THE RICH AND THE POOR

1434 Shri Sanjay Raut:

Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the gap between the rich and the poor is continuously widening in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that one per cent of the rich in India have 22 per cent of the total income of the country, while the top 10 per cent of the rich have 57 per cent of the total income;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to bridge the widening gap between the poor and the rich in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION; MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS

(RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

- (a) to (d): Sir, different agencies have analyzed income/asset inequality in India using their own methodologies and based on various types of data sources. Generally, household consumption expenditure data collected by NSSO is used as a proxy to capture the economic disparity. Based on Mixed Reference Period of the Quinquennial Household Consumer Expenditure Surveys of the NSSO conducted in 2004-05 (61st round) and 2011-12 (68th round), the Gini coefficient (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.
- (e) The Government of India has been focusing on inclusive growth as reflected in its commitment to Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and has taken various steps to uplift the people living below poverty line in the country. Government of India is implementing several schemes, both Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes, for reducing the poverty in the country. Some of the schemes aim to directly benefit the citizens through Direct Benefit Transfer of resources/ money while others intend to create enabling infrastructural provisions. These include Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS), Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), Deen Dayal Upadhyay – Gramin Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs), National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme, Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM), Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojna (PMGKAY), Aspirational Districts Programme, Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan-Dhan Yojana, Skill India, Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, Atal Pension Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, Stand Up India Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, Swachh Bharat Mission (Rural and Urban), etc.