

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 207
TO BE ANSWERED ON JANUARY 01, 2019

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;
- (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?

ANSWER

FINANCE MINISTER
(SHRI ARUN JAITLEY)

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 207 BY
SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA DUE FOR ANSWER ON JANUARY 01, 2019

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(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 Swacch 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.
