

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PLANNING
RAJYA SABHA

**STARRED QUESTION NO. *165
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2023**

UNDP REPORT ON INCOME INEQUALITY

165 SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the UNDP report that states that the top 10 per cent of India's population receive 57 per cent of national income and the top 1 per cent receive 22 per cent;
- (b) the measures taken by Government to address the observed increase in income inequality; and
- (c) the manner in which Government plans to address the concentration of poverty in States representing 45 per cent of the population, housing 62 per cent of the poor, as outlined by the UNDP report?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF
STATISTICS AND 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 (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (c) OF RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *165 FOR 18.12.2023 REGARDING UNDP REPORT ON
INCOME INEQUALITY**

(a) to (c) UNDP has recently released the '2024 Regional Human Development Report' for Asia and the Pacific region in November 2023. The report has observed that between 2000 and 2022, per capita income in India soared from \$442 to \$2,389. Besides, between 2004 and 2019, poverty rates (based on the international poverty measure of \$2.15 per day) plummeted from 40 to 10 percent in India. Further, between 2015-16 and 2019-21, the share of the population living in multidimensional poverty fell from 25 to 15 percent. Despite these successes, the report states that poverty remains persistently concentrated in states that are home to 45 percent of the country's population but contain 62 percent of its poor. The report also states that the top 10 percent of the population get 57 percent of the national income and the top 1 percent get 22 percent.

The primary policy objective of the Government is development of all segments of the population. Its focus on inclusive growth is reflected in commitment to "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" to reduce poverty and inequality, provide social security, income generation and livelihood options, and improve the quality of life of the vulnerable sections of the population in the country. Government of India has taken a host of measures to benefit the citizens by improving their livelihoods and reduce inequality while others intend to create enabling infrastructure both physical and social. 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) and National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojna (PMGKAY), Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (Saubhagya), Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP), Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP), Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi), PM Vishwakarma, etc.

These interventions are expected to demonstrate positive outcomes over time, contributing to comprehensive and equitable development across the nation besides bringing down poverty. The Government's focus on critical areas of education, nutrition, water, sanitation, cooking fuel, electricity, and housing has played a pivotal role in driving these positive outcomes. The recently released Report titled 'National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progress Review 2023' by NITI Aayog has indicated that India's multidimensional poverty has declined from 24.85 per cent in 2015-16 to 14.96 per cent in 2019-21 resulting in 13.5 crore people escaping multidimensional poverty during the five year period.
