RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2560
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.08.2025

DATA ON INCOME INEQUALITY IN THE COUNTRY

2560. SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P:

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the latest data on the income inequality in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of people below the poverty line in the country;

(c) whether there is any evidence of the decline of poverty in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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 CULTURE [RAO INDERJIT SINGH]

(a): The data related to income inequality is not compiled by the Central Government.

(b) to (d): In 2021, the Government of India has developed a comprehensive index known as Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) to measure poverty by capturing overlapping deviations in dimensions such as health, education and standard of living, covering 12 indicators. It measures both the share of people in poverty and the degree to which they are deprived. The second edition of the index was released in 2023. As per the National MPI Report, 2023 released by NITI Aayog, the proportion of population in multidimensional poverty declined from 24.85% to 14.96% between 2015-16 and 2019-21, indicating that about 135.5 million persons have escaped poverty during the period. Further, as per the discussion paper 'Multidimensional Poverty in India since 2005-06' published by NITI Aayog, multidimensional poverty in India is estimated to have declined from 29.17% in 2013-14 to 11.28% in 2022-23 indicating that 24.82 crore people have escaped poverty during this period. It is a major contribution towards achieving SDG target 1.2 that aims to reduce "at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions".

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