

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PLANNING

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1857
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.03.2026

CAUSES OF ECONOMIC INEQUALITY AND LAXITY IN ITS MITIGATION

1857 # SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that economic inequality in the country has been rising steadily;
- (b) the actual status of economic inequality in the country during the last five years; and
- (c) whether any study has been conducted to identify the underlying causes of economic inequality?

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 CULTURE

(RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a) to (c) Data relating to income inequality is not compiled centrally. However, Household Consumer Expenditure data collected by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) could be used as a proxy to capture income inequality in terms of consumption expenditure.

According to the latest Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (2023-24), income inequality has declined in both rural and urban India, with the Gini coefficient falling to 0.237 and 0.284, respectively, from 0.266 and 0.314 in 2022-23. This improving trend is further corroborated by World Bank estimates (India Poverty and Equity Brief, April 2025), which places India's Gini Index at 25.5 (as against 28.8 in 2011-12), ranking it fourth globally in income equality.
