

**O.I.H.**

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2595  
ANSWERED ON 19/12/2023**

**UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

**2595. SHRIMATI DELKAR KALABEN MOHANBHAI:**

**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) the strategy being formulated by the Government to improve the economic well-being of people in rural areas with the main focus on removing rural poverty and increasing livelihood opportunities in the country;**
- (b) whether the Government has achieved the goal of reducing multi-dimensional poverty in the country as per the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals;**
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for not achieving the target, State and districtwise; and**
- (d) the number of people in rural and urban areas recovered from multi-dimensional poverty during the last five years?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)**

**(a): The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Department of Rural Development (DoRD) has adopted multi-pronged strategies to improve the economic well-being of people in rural areas with the main focus on increasing livelihood opportunities, empowering rural women, providing social safety net skilling of rural youth, infrastructure development etc through its Programmes. In this regard, the Government is implementing a number of targeted programmes such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY NRLM), Deen Dayal**

**Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) and National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP). The Department of Land Resources (DoLR) is implementing Watershed Development Component (WDC) of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY) with the primary objective to develop rainfed/ degraded lands.**

**(b) to (d): The Resolution of the United Nations General Assembly on 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2015 established the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDG target 1.2 specifically aims at reducing at least half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all dimensions. NITI Aayog has released the National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progress Review 2023. As per this report, 13.5 crore people escaped “Multidimensional Poverty” between 2015-16 and 2019-20. A steep decline has been reported in the number of multi dimensionally poor from 24.85% to 14.96% between 2015-16 and 2019-22. This indicates that India is well on course to achieve the SDG target 1.2 much ahead of 2030.**

**The proportion of multidimensional poor in 2019-21 being 19.28% in rural areas compared to 5.27% in urban areas. The estimates indicate that rural areas saw a faster reduction in their Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) value, compared to urban areas. The incidence of poverty fell from 32.59% to 19.28% in rural areas compared to a decline from 8.65% to 5.27% in urban areas between 2015-16 and 2019-21. The report is available in the public domain and can be accessed at the following website:**

**<https://niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2023-08/India-National-Multidimensional-Poverty-Index-2023.pdf>**

**Apart from this, an evaluation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes in Rural Development Sector, including Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana was carried out by NITI Aayog in 2020 which found, inter-alia, that the scheme is well aligned with India’s international goals and is seen to contribute to SDGs 2 & 9 as it addressed the issues of poverty, hunger and infrastructure for growth. Further, the goal of WDC-PMKSY is to ensure sustainable improvement in productivity and livelihood / income potential of land, in particular rainfed cultivated areas and culturable wastelands.**

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