GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5007
ANSWERED ON 01/04/2025

POPULATION IN VILLAGES

5007. SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR:
       SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:
       SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:
       SHRI RAMPRIT MANDAL:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a)   whether 80 per cent of the population in the villages of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Odisha are poor and about two thirds of the said poor population belongs to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(b)   whether the Government is taking any effective steps to bridge the said disparity; and

(c)   if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI KAMLESH PASWAN)

(a):   In 2011, MoRD recognized the multifaceted nature of poverty and conducted the Socio-Economic & Caste Census (SECC) 2011 in collaboration with States/UTs. This census provides comprehensive data on various socio-economic aspects of households, including housing, land ownership, educational status, gender status, disability, occupation, asset ownership, Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe (SC/ST) classification, and income.

In SECC 2011, rural households were categorized into three groups: (i) "automatically excluded households," (ii) "automatically included households," and (iii) "deprived households," based on the collected data.

The SECC process was concluded by the Ministry of Rural Development in March 2016. The findings are publicly available on the SECC website (www.secc.gov.in). The SECC data reflect the socio-economic status of 17.97 crore rural households in the country. Out of which 0.16 crore (0.89%) households were automatically included as the poorest of the poor based on 5 parameters, and 8.72 crore (48.53%) households were assessed for deprivation across seven criteria.

In 2020, NITI Aayog was identified as the nodal agency for the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), responsible for constructing an indigenized index to monitor the performance of States and Union Territories. A comprehensive National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) for India was developed. The baseline report was published in November 2021 and the second edition of the National MPI report was released in July 2023.

The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) published by NITI Aayog measures both the proportion of multi-dimensionally poor in the population and average proportion of deprivations which is experienced by multi-dimensionally poor individuals. It estimates multidimensional poverty including that of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes at national, state and district levels. It also provides insights on multidimensional poverty in rural and urban areas. As per the latest National MPI Report, 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. The fastest decline is witnessed in the percentage of multidimensional poor in rural areas from 32.59% in 2015-16 to 19.28% in 2019-21. The State/UT-wise and sector-wise details of MPI are in public domain and can be accessed at https://www.niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2021-11/National MPI India-11242021.pdf and https://www.niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2023-08/India-National-Multidimentional-Poverty-Index-2023.pdf

(b) & (c): It is a continuous endeavor of the Government is to uplift all poor people living below the poverty line through various schemes and programmes. The Ministry of Rural Development

(MoRD) 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. The Government is implementing a number of targeted programmes such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Pradhan MantriAwasYojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), Pradhan Mantri Gram SadakYojana (PMGSY), DeendayalAntyodayaYojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY NRLM), DeenDayalUpadhyayaGrameenKaushalyaYojana (DDU-GKY), Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs),National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) and Watershed Development Component (WDC) of the Pradhan MantriKrishiSinchayeeYojana (WDC-PMKSY),National Food Security Act, Mission Poshan, SakshamAnganwadi, UjjwalaYojana, Saubhagya, and etc.

*****