GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PLANNING
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-2128
ANSWERED ON-11.12.2014

Middle class population in comparison to China

2128. Shri Palvai Govardhan Reddy

(a) the reasons that India has just three per cent of global middle class when compared to China's one-third as per Credit Suisse's Global Wealth Report, 2014;

(b) the change compared to the figures of 2000; and

(c) if so, the efforts the Ministry is making to increase the number which would ultimately increase the purchasing capacity of individuals and helps in moving the economy?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE

(RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a) & (b): According to the 'Credit Suisse Global Wealth Report 2014', "the one billion adults in the USD 10,000–100,000 range are the "middle class" in the context of global wealth". As per the Report "India has just 3% of the global middle class, and that share has changed very little during the past decade. In contrast, China's share of the middle class has doubled since 2000 and now covers one-third of the global membership, ten times the share of India."

(c): The Government is implementing a number of programmes to improve the quality of life of the people and to benefit the people at the lower end of the income distribution. This includes Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM), Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY), Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), National Health Mission (NHM), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM), National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), Swachh Bharat Mission etc. All the policy initiatives of the Government which have led to higher GDP growth in the country have individually and collectively contributed to raising the living standards of people over a period of time and to the decline of absolute poverty and inequality.