

Total Requirement of Funds for Comprehensive Social Security

The following table summarizes requirement of total funds for extending bare minimum meaningful comprehensive social security cover for all the people of the country:

Head of Expenditure	Required Funds (Approx.)
1. Minimum cost for providing food, fuel, and cloth through Universal Public Distribution System to all.	Rs.1947 billion
2. Minimum cost for maintenance of country-wide network of <i>Panches</i> and <i>Head-Panches</i> , for providing basic security to people and improving local governance.	Rs.396 billion
3. Additional cost for reforming school education for children of 4 to 14 years of age and creating reasonable crèche facility for children of 6 months to 4 years of age.	Rs.380 billion
4. Universal Healthcare Insurance Plan for all.	Rs.220 billion
Total >>>	Rs.2943 billion

Accordingly, if we could arrange about Rs.2943 billion then all the people of the country can be provided at least a dependable social security net which will always stay with them and will help them to stay afloat even in the midst of gravest of crises, if they were to face these crises ever in their lives.

This will also obviate the need for providing any other kind of subsidy or floating any other social welfare scheme for any segment of population of our country. And in the process, the country will save a lot in terms of reduction in non productive man-days and other administrative costs, which are spent in managing hundreds of existing subsidy schemes and social welfare schemes. Besides the above, the people will also be saved from a lot of hardship, they undergo to avail of the benefits from so many scattered social welfare schemes. And on the top of it, no needy citizen of the country will ever remain deprived from availing of benefits of social welfare schemes of the Government, which is one of the main lacunae with the existing social welfare schemes, which target different segments of the people but, because of procedural complexities and deficiencies, leave behind millions of the poorest among the poor from availing of the benefits of these social welfare schemes. In the Part II of the book, I shall propose as to how required resources for extending comprehensive social security cover for all, can be mobilized, without hurting painfully anyone whosoever.

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