

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1520  
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2000  
SC/ST BELOW POVERTY LINE  
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**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether majority of persons belonging to SCs/STs are living below poverty line even now;
- (b) if so, the percentage of persons belonging to SCs/STs as compared to the total population of the country living below poverty line; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government to bring the persons belonging to SCs/STs above poverty line?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA)

(a) & (b): As per the latest estimates of poverty, obtained by the Planning Commission, 48.11% of the Scheduled Caste and 51.94% of the Scheduled Tribe population lived below the poverty line in rural areas in 1993-94. In urban areas, the percentage of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population living below the poverty line has been estimated at 49.48% and 41.14% respectively in that year. Among the entire population, the percentage of people living below the poverty line is estimated at 37.27% in rural areas and 32.36% in urban areas in 1993-94.

(c): Various poverty alleviation programmes are being implemented under Tribal Sub-Plan and Special Component Plan strategy. In addition, various Central and Centrally sponsored programmes are also being implemented by the States and UTs, besides State sector programmes to improve the standard of living of SCs/STs living below poverty line.