

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1108
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2000
RURAL POVERTY
SUKDEO PASWAN

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Rural poverty rises by 3.42 per cent' appearing in Business Standard dated January 7, 2000;
- (b) if so the facts of the matter reported therein; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto:

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS.

(SHRI ARUN SHOURIE)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The report has stated some estimate of poverty ratio in rural and urban areas made from the National Sample Survey data on consumer expenditure collected in its 46th, 47th, 48th, 51st, 52nd and 53rd Round on the basis of Thin Sample and the estimate of poverty made by the Planning Commission for the year 1993-94 from the large sample survey data on consumer expenditure. The estimated poverty ratios reported therein are as under:

NSS Round Year Poverty Ratio Rural Poverty Ratio Urban

46th Round	July 90-June 91	35.04	35.29
47th Round	July 91-Dec 91	40.68	37.03
48th Round	Jan 92-Dec 92	46.43	38.52
50th Round	July 93-June 94	37.27	32.36
51st round	July 94-June 95	38.03	34.24
52nd Round	July 95-June 96	38.29	30.05
53rd Round	Jan 97-Dec 97	38.46	33.97

The report also states that the estimates of poverty from the thin sample data on consumer expenditure of the National Sample Survey Organisation do not strictly follow the norms of the Expert Group whose methodology of poverty estimation has been accepted by the Planning Commission and that the Planning Commission estimates poverty on the basis of quinquennial consumer expenditure surveys.

(c): The Planning Commission after detailed deliberations accepted the methodology of poverty estimation as recommended by the Expert Group, according to which, the national level poverty is viewed as an average of state- level poverty and state level poverty is estimated from state level poverty line and state level consumer expenditure distribution obtained from the large survey of consumer expenditure of the National Sample Survey Organisation. In contrast, the estimates of poverty mentioned in the report are based on national level poverty line and thin sample data of consumer expenditure of the National Sample Survey Organisation. Hence no specific inferences should be drawn from comparison of these estimates with the official estimates.