

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4117
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2004
REDUCTION IN POVERTY
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Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has fixed any target for reduction of poverty level;
- (b) if so, the target fixed during the Ninth Five Year Plan;
- (c) the actual target achieved;
- (d) the target fixed for the Tenth Five Year Plan; and
- (e) the specific steps being taken by the Government in this direction?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN)

- (a) : The Planning Commission for the first time set specific target for reducing poverty in the Tenth Five Year Plan period.
- (b) : No target was fixed for poverty reduction during the Ninth Five Year Plan.
- (c) : The Planning Commission estimates the population living below poverty line at national and state level from the large sample surveys on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years. The latest two such surveys relate to the period 1993-94 (50th round) and 1999-2000 (55th Round). It may be noted that Plan wise poverty ratios could not be estimated from these surveys. However, the poverty ratios estimated from the last two large sample surveys, indicate that the percentage of persons living below poverty line in the country declined from 36% in 1993-94 to 26.1% in 1999-2000.
- (d) : The Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07) has set a target of reduction in poverty ratio by 5 percentage points by 2007.
- (e) : The policy for alleviation of poverty in the Tenth Plan revolves around three-pronged strategy. This includes: (i) acceleration of economic growth, (ii) human and social development through literacy, education, health, nutrition, meeting of the minimum needs, elevation of social and economic status of the weaker sections of the society, etc; and (iii) direct attack on poverty through employment and income generating programmes and assets-building for the poor.