

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4351  
ANSWERED ON:26.08.2004  
ALLEVIATION OF POVERTY IN BACKWARD AND TRIBAL AREAS  
Reddy Shri Karunakara G.

**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether poverty has increased in rural areas, particularly in backward and tribal areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any survey has been conducted recently in this regard;
- (d) if so, the findings thereof, State-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government for poverty alleviation in these areas?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL)

(a)to(e) As per official estimates of the poverty ratio, 37.27% of rural population of the country including the backward and tribal areas was living below the poverty line in 1993-1994 but the 1999-2000 estimates indicate that this percent has come down to 27.09%. State-wise details of poverty ratio on the basis of 1999-2000 Survey are given in the Annexure. The Government is implementing a number of rural development programmes including wage-employment, self-employment, rural housing, developing rural infrastructure and basic services such as drinking water and sanitation etc. for the rural poor. The primary objective of the rural development programmes is to alleviate poverty particularly in the backward and tribal areas.