

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1746

ANSWERED ON:08.03.2010

IDENTIFICATION OF BPL FAMILIES

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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government is unable to determine the exact number of poor in the country despite findings by different Committees like Saxena and Tendulkar Committees;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the number of families living Below Poverty Line (BPL) in the country as on date, State-wise;
- (c) whether there have been differences of opinion about the poverty figures by these committees and the estimates made by the States and the Centre;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government is working out any plan for reducing poverty in the country; and
- (f) if so, the efforts made by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN 'ADITYA')

(a) to (d) Expert Groups headed by Dr. N.C. Saxena and Prof. S.D. Tendulkar were set up with different objectives. The Expert Group set up by the Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of Prof. Suresh D Tendulkar to review the methodology for estimation of poverty has submitted its report on 08-12-2009 which has redefined the poverty line, according to which, the poverty ratio in the country was 37.2 percent in 2004-05 as against the poverty ratio of 27.5 percent of the Planning Commission. Whereas the Expert Group under the chairmanship of Dr. N. C. Saxena was set up to advise the Ministry of Rural Development on the methodology for conducting the Below Poverty Line (BPL) Census for identification of Below Poverty Line (BPL) for the 11th Five Year Plan.

The Planning Commission estimates the percentage and number of persons living Below the Poverty Line (BPL) at national and state level, separately in rural and urban areas from the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years. The state-wise poverty is estimated by the Planning Commission from the state-specific poverty lines and State Specific Consumer Expenditure Distribution obtained these sample surveys.

The latest estimates of poverty are available for the year 2004-05 which were release by the Planning Commission. According to these, the number of people living below the poverty line for the country as a whole is estimated 27.5% of the total population in 2004-05. The state-wise estimated the number of people living below the poverty line in the country for 2004-05 is at annexure-I.

(e) to (f) The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing the schemes of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) and Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) for eradication of rural poverty.

Annexure-I referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.1746 to be answered on 08.03.2010.

Number of persons living Below Poverty Line by States/UTs as per poverty estimates for 2004-05

(Based on URP-Consumption)

Sl. No. States/UTs No. of Persons (Lakhs)

2 Arunachal Pradesh 2.03
3 Assam 55.77
4 Bihar 369.15
5 Chhattisgarh 90.96
6 Delhi 22.93
7 Goa 2.01
8 Gujarat 90.69
9 Haryana 32.10
10 Himachal Pradesh 6.36
11 Jammu & Kashmir 5.85
12 Jharkhand 116.39
13 Karnataka 138.89
14 Kerala 49.60
15 Madhya Pradesh 249.68
16 Maharashtra 317.38
17 Manipur 3.95
18 Meghalaya 4.52
19 Mizoram 1.18
20 Nagaland 3.99
21 Orissa 178.49
22 Punjab 21.63
23 Rajasthan 134.89
24 Sikkim 1.14
25 Tamil Nadu 145.62
26 Tripura 6.38
27 Uttar Pradesh 590.03
28 Uttarakhand 35.96
29 West Bengal 208.36

30 A & N Islands 0.92

31 Chandigarh 0.74

32 Dadra&N. Haveli 0.84

33 Daman & Diu 0.21

34 Lakshadweep 0.11

35 Puducherry 2.37

All-India 3017.20

Source:-Planning Commission

URP consumption = Uniform Recall Period consumption in which the consumer expenditure data for all the items are collected from 30-day recall period.

Notes:

1. Poverty Ratio of Assam is used for Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura.
2. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Goa is used to estimate poverty ratio of Goa.
3. Poverty Ratio of Tamil Nadu is used for Puducherry and A & N Island.
4. Urban Poverty Ratio of Punjab used for both rural and urban poverty of Chandigarh.
5. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Dadra & Nagar Haveli is used to estimate poverty ratio of Dadra & Nagar Haveli.
6. Poverty Ratio of Goa is used for Daman & Diu.
7. Poverty Ratio of Kerala is used for Lakshadweep.