

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4224
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2010
INCREASE IN BPL FAMILIES
Verma Smt. Usha

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of families living below the poverty line has increased in the country over the years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and year-wise; and
- (c) the details of reasons for either increase or decrease in BPL families in the country, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

(a) to (c): No, Madam. There has been a significant reduction in the proportion and total number of persons living below the poverty line over the years. In 1993-94 it was estimated that 32.03 crore persons (36% of total population) were living Below the Poverty Line (BPL) whereas the poverty estimates for 2004-05 revealed that number of BPL persons has come down to 30.17 crore accounting for 27.5% of the total population. Alleviation of poverty has been one of the objectives of Development Planning. The accelerated economic growth and the direct interventions by the Government in the form of implementation of wage employment programmes, self-employment programmes and development of socio-economic infrastructure has resulted in reduction of poverty in the country. The state-wise number and proportion of population living below the poverty line estimated for the year 1993-94 and 2004-05 is at Annexure-I.