

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:345

ANSWERED ON:10.11.2010

BPL POPULATION

Swamygowda Shri N Cheluvarama Swamy

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the various committees constituted by the Government have submitted different figures on population Below Poverty Line;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has information about the exact percentage of population Below Poverty Line at present;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; State-wise; and
- (e) the further steps taken by the Government to bring population above the poverty line?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): The National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector (NCEUS) set up by Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) in 2004 brought out a report on 'Conditions on Work and Promotion of Livelihoods in the Unorganised Sector'. In this report, it was reported that 77% of the population had a per capita daily consumption of up to Rs. 20 in 2004-05 and this section of population was termed as poor and vulnerable. The Committee did not provide any justification for using the cut-off amount of Rs. 20 per day. However, the Economic Survey 2008-09, brought out that based on the calculations on data on household consumption expenditure for 2004-05 (NSS 61st round-2004-05), the population with less than Rs 20 per day per capita consumption expenditure was 60.5% only. In any case, the above observation in the report of National Commission for Enterprises in the Unorganised Sector (NCEUS) is based on the criterion which is different from the poverty line adopted by the Planning Commission.

An Expert Group headed by Dr. N.C. Saxena constituted by the Ministry of Rural Development to recommend a suitable methodology for identification of BPL families in rural areas submitted its report in August 2009. While recommending the new methodology for identification of BPL households, it was also suggested to assume national level poverty ratio at 50 percent which was not based on any specific justification.

The Planning Commission is the only nodal government agency that provides official estimates of the number and proportion of people living below the poverty line at the national and state levels, separately for rural and urban areas. These poverty estimates are based on a large sample survey of household consumption expenditure carried out by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) after an interval of five years approximately.

The Planning Commission in December, 2005 appointed an Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Prof. Suresh D. Tendulkar to review alternate concepts of poverty and to recommend changes in the existing procedures used for official estimates of poverty. The Tendulkar Committee submitted its report in December, 2009. The Committee has recommended that the rural poverty line should be recomputed to reflect money value in rural areas of the same basket of consumption that is associated with the existing urban poverty line. The resulting estimate of the all-India rural poverty head count ratio for 2004-05 was placed at 41.8 percent, urban poverty head count ratio at 25.7 percent and at all-India level at 37.2 percent. The Mid Term Appraisal of the Eleventh Five Year Plan has indicated that the revised poverty lines for 2004-05 as recommended by the Tendulkar Committee have been accepted by the Planning Commission. A statement containing the latest official state-wise poverty estimates of Planning Commission and the estimates based on the recommendations of Tendulkar Committee is at Annexe-I.

(e): Alleviation of poverty in the country is one of the monitorable targets of the Eleventh Five Year Plan and it aims at reduction in the Head-Count Ratio of Consumption Poverty by 10 percentage points during the Plan period (2007-12). The Government has taken various measures to reduce poverty in the country through direct interventions by implementing programmes such as: Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Swarna Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), etc. In addition, launching of Rashtriya Swasthaya Bima Yojana, Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana and Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) are the initiatives to strengthen the social security system.