

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PLANNING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2138  
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2011  
BELOW POVERTY LINE  
Badal Harsimrat Kaur

**Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether in spite of 8% GDP growth rate, the number of poor people is increasing;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has maintained any figures of rise in poverty during the Eleventh Five Year Plan so far; and
- (d) if so, the details of income and poverty during the current Five Year Plan?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES(DR. ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a): No, Madam.

(b): Does not arise.

(c) & (d): The Planning Commission estimates the number and proportion of people living below the poverty line at the national and state levels separately for rural and urban areas on the basis of Monthly Per capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE) data obtained from the large sample survey on household consumption expenditure carried out by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) of Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation. These surveys are conducted with an interval of five years approximately and therefore the poverty estimates are made once in five years. The latest poverty estimates are available for 2004-05. The number of people living below poverty line at all India level, as per 2004-05 estimates, is 301.7 million as compared to 320.3 million in 1993-94. The poverty ratio during this period came down from about 36% to 27.5%.

The Per capita income of the country, measured by per capita Net National income at constant (2004-05) prices, increased from Rs.28,083 in 2006-07 to Rs. 36,003 in 2010-11( Advance Estimates) registering an annual average growth rate of 6.4 percent during the first four years of the Eleventh five Year Plan (2007-12).