

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:626

ANSWERED ON:03.08.2011

PEOPLE LIVING BELOW POVERTY LINE

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Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether as per latest census, 6.52 crore people are living below poverty line and as per latest estimation of Planning Commission, the poor population of India is 8.10 crore;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any survey based on the present model of BPL families; and
- (d) if so, the success achieved through these effects in ascertaining correct figure of poor population in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES (DR. ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) & (b): As estimated by the Tendulkar Committee, 37.2% of the people at all India level were below the poverty line during 2004-05. Taking into account population projection of the Registrar General of India for the year 2004-05, the number of persons below poverty line is estimated as 40.74 crore which amounts to about 8.1 crore families assuming an average family size of five persons.

(c) & (d): Prior to undertaking the BPL Census, the Ministry of Rural Development conducted a pilot survey for testing the methodology which has been finalized.