

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1632
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2011
BENCH-MARK FOR BPL
Singh Chaudhary Lal

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Planning Commission has fixed any per capita spending capacity per day as bench-mark for classifying people under BPL category in rural and urban areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof ;
- (c) whether the government contemplates to change the benchmark for identification of BPL families; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The poverty line has been defined by the Planning Commission on the basis of Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE) as the criterion. As per Tendulkar Committee Report, the poverty line at the national level is fixed at Rs. 446.68 per capita per month in rural areas and Rs. 578.80 per capita per month in urban areas at 2004-05 price level.

(c) & (d): While estimation of poverty is undertaken by the Planning Commission, the identification of BPL families is done by conducting census in rural and urban areas by Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation respectively. The methodology for identification of BPL families is reviewed from time to time. The Ministry of Rural Development, in August 2008, constituted Saxena Committee to recommend a suitable methodology for conducting the BPL Census for identification of rural households. Based on the Saxena Committee Report pilot studies were carried out and the new methodology for identification of BPL households in rural areas has been finalised.

The Planning Commission has constituted an Expert Group under the chairmanship of Prof. S.R. Hashim to recommend a suitable methodology for identification of BPL families in the urban areas. The Hashim Committee has submitted interim report recommending a questionnaire to be canvassed along with the caste enumeration to collect relevant information on socio-economic indicators in order to determine BPL status of urban households.