

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PLANNING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5703  
ANSWERED ON:07.09.2011  
UNDP REPORT ON POVERTY  
Kumar Shri Kaushalendra;Ramkishun Shri

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

- (a) whether the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Report/ United Nations Millennium Development Goals Report 2011 has revealed certain facts in regard to poverty and under-nourishment in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to reduce poverty in the country;
- (d) whether the Tendulkar Committee method to identify Below Poverty Line (BPL) is inefficient;
- (e) if so, whether the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has received any complaints in this regard; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c): The UN Report on 'The Millennium Development Goals 2011' has stated that:

"The fastest growth and sharpest reductions in poverty continue to be found in Eastern Asia, particularly in China, where the poverty rate is expected to fall to under 5 per cent by 2015. India has also contributed to the large reduction in global poverty. In that country, poverty rates are projected to fall from 51 per cent in 1990 to about 22 per cent in 2015. In China and India combined, the number of people living in extreme poverty between 1990 and 2005 declined by about 455 million, and an additional 320 million people are expected to join their ranks by 2015".

The Report further observes that nearly a quarter of children under five in the developing World remain undernourished.

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 is implementing a number of programmes to alleviate poverty and bring about improvements on education and health etc. such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA), Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewable Mission (JNNURM), Swarna Jyanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission, etc. All these programmes and Government policies relating to inclusive economic growth aim at reducing the incidence of poverty and improving living condition of poor in the country.

(d): The poverty line has been defined by the Planning Commission on the basis of Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE) as the criterion. The method for estimation of poverty has been reviewed by the Planning Commission from time to time. The Planning Commission constituted an Expert Group was constituted under the Chairmanship of Prof. Suresh D. Tendulkar to review the methodology for estimation of poverty of the country, which submitted its report in December 2009. Based on the Tendulkar Committee methodology, the poverty lines in 2004-05 at all India level are calculated as per capita consumption expenditure of Rs 446.68 per month for rural areas and Rs. 578.80 for urban areas. These are in the process of being revised based on the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) large sample survey data available for 2009-10. The Tendulkar Committee has incorporated adequacy of expenditure from the normative and nutritional viewpoint. It stated:

"while moving away from the calorie norms, the proposed poverty lines have been validated by checking the adequacy of actual private expenditure per capita near the poverty lines on food, education and health by comparing them with normative expenditures consistent with nutritional, educational and health outcomes."

(e) & (f): According to information received from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Chief Ministers of Bihar, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh have raised certain objection on the method of pre-determined BPL ceiling adopted while conducting the nationwide socio economic census 2011. Ministry of Rural Development has been asked to apprise the State Governments of the methodology being used in the survey and to ensure that the legitimate grievances on the matter are suitably addressed.

