

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PLANNING  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:294  
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2011  
POVERTY DATA  
Ram Shri Purnmasi

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

- (a) whether the Planning Commission has released the data concerning the progress made so far in poverty reduction during the Eleventh Five Year Plan period;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the number of below poverty line families brought above poverty line during the above period?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 294 REGARDING "POVERTY DATA" RAISED BY SHRI PURANMASI RAM DUE FOR ANSWER ON 14th DECEMBER, 2011.

(a) & (b): The Planning Commission as the nodal agency for estimation of poverty at the national and state level reviews the methodology for estimation of poverty from time to time. Accordingly, the Planning Commission constituted an Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Prof. Suresh D. Tendulkar in December, 2005 which submitted its report in December, 2009. The Planning Commission had accepted the poverty ratios and the poverty lines computed by this Committee for the years 1993-94 and 2004-05. As per Tendulkar Committee Report the poverty ratio at all India level has declined from 45.3% in 1993-94 to 37.2% in 2004-05. However, in absolute terms, there has been a marginal increase in total number of persons Below Poverty Line (BPL) from 40.34 crore in 1993-94 to 40.74 crore in 2004-05 because of the 23.02% increase in population.

(c): The Planning Commission estimates poverty lines and poverty ratios for the years for which Large Sample Surveys on Household Consumer Expenditure have been conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO). These surveys are conducted quinquennially. After 2004-05, this survey has been conducted in 2009-10, the results of which are being processed. The next Large Sample Survey on Household Consumer Expenditure is being conducted during 2011-12 in 68th round of NSSO which coincides with the terminal year of Eleventh Five Year Plan. The number of below poverty line persons or families brought above poverty line during the Eleventh Five Year Plan can be estimated only after the results of the on-going 68th Round of NSS become available. The methodology for measuring poverty in future will be reviewed on the basis of 2009-10 NSSO survey and by taking a holistic view on all relevant indicia of poverty, as identified by experts.