

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3375
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2011
MINIMUM STANDARD OF LIFE
Karunakaran Shri P.

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) the proposed schemes to uplift minimum standard of life as per the Twelfth Plan approach paper;
- (b) the rate of rural and urban poverty at the beginning of the Eleventh Plan and at present;
- (c) the details of proposals in the Twelfth Plan approach papers for achieving universal healthcare, universal education and universal employment generation;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to extend the employment guarantee scheme in the Twelfth Plan;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the status of the proposal of transferring centrally sponsored schemes to the States to launch projects as per their specific needs and priorities during the Twelfth Five Year Plan?

Answer

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

(a): The Approach Paper outlines the broad frame work of the Twelfth Five year Plan. It emphasises on faster, sustainable and more inclusive growth. The Approach accords highest priority to health care, education and skill development to uplift the standard of life of the citizens. The detailed schemes to achieve these goals and targets will be contained in the Plan document which is under formulation. Various Steering Committees and Working Groups have been set up to outline sector specific targets and action points in line with the Approach.

(b): The poverty line is defined by the Planning Commission on the basis of Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE) as the criterion. The number and proportion of persons living below the poverty line (BPL) are computed using the data from Large Sample Surveys on Household Consumer Expenditure carried out by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) with an interval of approximately five years. The methodology for estimation of poverty has been reviewed from time to time. The Planning Commission constituted an Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Prof. Suresh D. Tendulkar in December, 2005. The Tendulkar Committee submitted its report in December, 2009, in which MPCE of Rs. 447 for rural areas and Rs 579 for urban areas was recommended as the poverty line at 2004-05 prices, which was accepted by the Planning commission. These poverty lines vary from state to state because of price differentials. As per Tendulkar methodology, the poverty ratio for 2004-05 is estimated at 41.8 percent in rural areas, 25.7 percent in urban areas and 37.2 percent at all-India level.

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 now available. 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. A final view on the methodology for measuring poverty in future can be taken inter-alia on the basis of 2009-10 NSSO survey and by taking into consideration all relevant indicia of poverty as identified by experts. A holistic view as to the approach to poverty measurement will be taken and if considered necessary, the issue will be revisited to arrive at the most credible methodology for poverty estimation.

(c): In view of the reply to (a) above, does not arise.

(d) & (e): An Employment Guarantee Scheme remains an integral component of the Twelfth Five Year Plan as indicated in the Approach Paper endorsed by NDC.

(f): There is no proposal at present with Planning Commission for transferring centrally sponsored schemes to the States during the Twelfth Five Year Plan. However, a sub- committee set up by Planning Commission under Shri. B. K. Chaturvedi, has recommended rationalisation of the CSS to enhance flexibility to the States to take up projects as per their specific needs and priorities.