

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4589
ANSWERED ON:21.12.2011
PLANNING COMMISSION'S REPORT ON POVERTY
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Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Planning Commission has recently stated in its report that poverty has been declining in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the criteria laid down for measuring poverty in this report alongwith the present criteria laid down in this regard?

Answer

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

(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 year 2004-05 and 1993-94. The latest poverty estimates as computed by Tendulkar Committee indicate that the poverty ratio at all India level has declined from 45.3% in 1993-94 to 37.2% in 2004-05.

(c): The poverty line is presently defined in terms of Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE) as the criterion. As per Tendulkar Committee Report, the national Poverty line at 2004-05 prices is monthly per capita consumption expenditure of Rs.446.68 in the rural areas and Rs.578.80 in urban areas. 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 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.