

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PLANNING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:413  
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2011  
NUMBER OF POOR PERSONS  
Kumar Shri Shailendra

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

- (a) whether the number of poor persons has declined in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the total number of poor persons in the country as on March 1, 2005 and at present;
- (d) the number of poor persons likely to be out of the 121 crore at the 2011 census;
- (e) the measures taken by the Government to improve the living standard of these poor people; and
- (f) the number of poor persons likely to be below poverty line in the next year ?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): The latest poverty estimates as computed by Tendulkar Committee indicate that the poverty ratio at all India level has declined from 45.5% 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 crores in 1993-94 to 40.74 crore in 2004-05 because of the 23.02% increase in population. The details of the State-wise number of BPL persons during the year 2004-05 is at Annexure I.

(c) to (f): The Planning Commission estimates poverty Head Count ratio from a large size sample survey on Household Consumption Expenditure carried out by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) after an interval of five years approximately. The Planning Commission is in the process of estimating the revised poverty estimates on the basis of 2009-10 survey data on Household Consumer Expenditure, which are now available. The number of persons below poverty line for the year 2011-12 can be estimated only after the results of the ongoing 68th Round of NSS become available.

The Government has taken various measures to improve the quality of life of the people and to reduce poverty in the country through direct intervention by implementing specific poverty reduction and mitigation programmes such as: Mahatma Gandhi National Rural (SGSY), Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS), Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURJV1), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission, Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), National Social of the government which have led to higher GDP growth in the country have individually and collectively contributed to raising the living standards of people over time and to the decline of absolute poverty and destitution.