

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1536

ANSWERED ON:15.07.2009

POPULATION BELOW POVERTY LINE

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Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether as per the World Bank Report on 'Global Economic Prospects for 2009,' the percentage of population below the poverty line in the country has exceeded as compared to that of Sub-Saharan Africa;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the number of poor people in the country as per the assessment of the Government; and
- (d) the criteria fixed for such assessment?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS(SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

- (a): As per the World Bank Report entitled Global Economic Prospects for 2009, the percentage of the poor population in India (those living on less than \$1.25/day) is 41.6 percent for the year 2005 as against 50.9 percent for sub-Saharan Africa. However, on account of higher population, the number of poor in absolute terms in India exceeds that of sub-Saharan Africa.
- (b): Government of India does not use poverty estimates based on international poverty lines.
- (c): As per the Planning Commission estimates, the numbers of persons living below poverty line (BPL) for the year 2004-05 is estimated to be 301.7 million accounting for 27.5% of the total population.
- (d): The Planning Commission estimates the percentage and number of persons living below poverty line at national and state level, separately in rural and urban areas. The national poverty line at 2004-05 prices is Rs. 356.30 per capita per month in rural areas and Rs. 538.60 per capita per month in urban areas. The number and percentage of persons living below poverty line are estimated using the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years.