

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3523

ANSWERED ON:29.07.2009

MISMATCH IN ESTIMATES OF BPL POPULATION

Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Panda Shri Prabodh

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the estimates of Planning Commission shows 28 percent of Indian population Below Poverty Line (BPL) while Supreme Court appointed Food Commissioner Saxena Panel has estimated 50 percent of the population Below Poverty Line as reported in the media;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the States have disregarded the BPL figures prepared by the Planning Commission;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to resolves the controversy over the mismatch between the two?

Answer

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

(a): The Planning Commission estimates the number of persons living below poverty line at national and state level, separately in rural and urban areas from the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years. As per the latest 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. The Supreme Court, vide its order dated 14-02-2006 stated that the methodology for the next BPL Census will be designed by Ministry of Rural Development in consultation with the Supreme Court Commissioners in the right to food matter. Accordingly, an Expert Group headed by Dr. N.C.Saxena has been constituted by the Ministry of Rural Development to recommend methodology to identify the rural households living Below the Poverty Line (BPL) who could be assisted under its various programmes. It is not in the Terms Of Reference (TOR) of this Expert Group to estimate BPL population in the country. The Expert Group has not submitted its final report.

(b): Does not arise.

(c): No, Sir.

(d): Does not arise.

(e): While the Planning Commission estimates the number of persons living below poverty line at national and state level, the Expert Group headed by Dr. Saxena as per its Terms of Reference is not required to estimate BPL population in the country.