

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:312
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2012
POVERTY REDUCTION
Ajmal Shri Badruddin

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the targets fixed under the Eleventh Five Year Plan towards reduction of poverty have been achieved by various State Governments including Assam;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the names of the States which have failed to achieve the targets; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government to help those States to achieve the targets?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): The Eleventh Plan had set a target of reduction in the head-count ratio of consumption poverty by 10 percentage points for the country. State-specific targets for such reduction have not been fixed. 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. The latest estimates are available for the year 2004-05 based on Large Sample Survey conducted by NSSO during 2004-05. It is not possible to measure progress against this target at this stage because no official estimates of poverty are available after 2004-05. After 2004-05, this survey has been conducted in 2009-10, the results of which are being processed. The next Large Sample Survey on Household Consumer Expenditure is being conducted during 2011-12 which coincides with the terminal year of Eleventh Five Year Plan, data from which will become available only in 2013.

However, 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 Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (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 (JNNURM), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission, Indira Awaas Yojana

(IAY), National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) and Total Sanitation Campaign etc. All other policy initiatives 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.