

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:352

ANSWERED ON:14.03.2012

WORLD BANK REPORT ON POOR PEOPLE IN INDIA

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Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether according to World Bank report, 41.6 percent population is poor in India as per international standards;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the Government has not adopted international poverty standards to show the number of poor people less than actual; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor, and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): As per the World Development Report 2012, brought out by the World Bank, in 2004-05, 41.6% of the Indian population lived below International poverty line of U.S. \$ 1.25 a day. The Planning Commission estimates poverty at the national and state level with reference to poverty line defined in terms of Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE) as recommended by the experts from time to time.

(c) & (d): The Government of India does not use the poverty estimates made by the World Bank on the basis of international poverty line, since it does not distinguish between rural and urban areas or between different States of the country. At an aggregate level, the two poverty estimates are not very far from each other.