

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:375
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2012
DEFINITION OF POVERTY LINE
Rama Devi Smt.

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) the definition of `poor person` in India and the criteria thereof;
- (b) the number of persons living below the poverty line in the year 2005 and in March, 2011, State-wise;
- (c) the details of facilities given to them and schemes implemented for them;
- (d) whether the poor are actually getting benefits of the programmes run for them; and
- (e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a): The Planning Commission defines poverty line on the basis of Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE) as the criterion. The methodology for estimation of poverty has been reviewed from time to time. The Expert Group headed by Prof. Suresh D. Tendulkar that submitted its report in December 2009, computed the poverty lines at all India level as MPCE of Rs. 447 for rural areas and Rs 579 for urban areas in 2004-05.

(b): The number and proportion of persons living below the poverty line (BPL) are computed using the data from Large Sample Surveys on Household Consumer Expenditure carried out 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. After 2004-05, this survey has been conducted in 2009-10, the results of which are being processed. As 2009-10 was not a normal year, NSSO is again conducting Large Sample Survey on Household Consumer Expenditure during 2011-12 and poverty in 2011-12 can be estimated only after the results of this survey become available. The revised estimates of poverty will be based on the recommendations of experts taking into consideration all relevant data and the various indices of poverty on a holistic basis. The state wise number of persons living below poverty line as based on Tendulkar Committee Report in the year 2004-05 is given at Annexure.

(c) to (e): The Government remains totally committed to the welfare of the under-privileged & poor sections of the society and is implementing a number of poverty alleviation programmes such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA), Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), Antyoday Anna Yojana (AAY), Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewable Mission (JNNURM), Swarna Jyanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), etc. All these programmes and Government policies relating to inclusive economic growth aim at reducing the incidence of poverty and improving living condition of poor in the country and have made a substantial contribution in blunting the sharp edges of poverty and deprivation.