

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2524
ANSWERED ON:28.03.2012
ESTIMATES OF BPL
Singh Shri Ravneet

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) the present estimates of poverty in rural and urban area at National and State levels, as per various expert committees set up by the Planning Commission, World Bank, etc.;
- (b) the various criteria adopted by them;
- (c) the final figures of BPL in rural and urban areas, the percentage of population and the number of families as accepted by the Government;
- (d) whether the number of BPL families has increased;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether there is a wide gap between urban and rural poverty; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): The poverty line is defined by the Planning Commission 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 by the Planning Commission. Accordingly an Expert Group was constituted under the Chairmanship of Prof. Suresh D. Tendulkar in December, 2005. The Tendulkar Committee submitted its report in December, 2009, in which monthly per capita consumption expenditure (MPCE) of Rs. 447 for rural areas and Rs 579 for urban areas was recommended as the poverty line at 2004-05 prices, which was accepted by the Planning commission. According to Tendulkar Committee report the poverty ratio at all India level is 37.2% with 41.8% in rural areas and 25.7% in urban areas in 2004-05. Government has since decided to set up a Technical Group to revisit the methodology for estimation of poverty and identification of poor. The details of State-wise number and percentage of BPL persons during the year 2004-05 is at Annexure -I. 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 details of World Bank methodology are not known to us nor does it compute poverty for rural and urban areas and State-wise separately.

(d) to (g): The poverty estimates as computed by Tendulkar Committee indicate that the poverty ratio at all India level has declined from 45.3% in 1993-94 to 37.2% in 2004-05. In rural areas, the poverty ratio has declined from 50.1% 1993-94 to 41.8% in 2004-05 and in urban areas, poverty ratio has declined from 31.8% in 1993-94 to 25.7% in 2004- 05. The details of state wise reduction in percentage of persons below poverty line from 1993-94 to 2004-05 as per Tendulkar Committee report are given at Annexure-II. The country has made rapid economic progress in the last several years and the sharp edges of poverty have been substantially blunted as a result of various policies and schemes of the Government for empowerment of the poor.