

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4289

ANSWERED ON:02.05.2012

ERADICATION OF POVERTY

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Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether inspite of economic growth or increase in per capita income, a large portion of population is still living below poverty line;
- (b) if so, whether a large number of such population is still without basic amenities/facilities of food, house, healthcare and education;
- (c) if so, whether South Asian nations including India would not be able to eradicate poverty and ensure minimum education for all by 2015;
- (d) if so, the facts in this regard and the reasons therefor;
- (e) the latest target date fixed by the Government of India for eradication of poverty from the country; and
- (f) the achievement made in this regard till the end of the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

Answer

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

(a): The Planning Commission has estimated poverty ratio in 2009-10 as 29.8%. This represents a decline of 7.4% from 37.2% in 2004-05 to 29.8% in 2009-10. During this period, the gross domestic product at factor cost at constant prices has increased by 8.7% per annum and per capita income (per capita net national income) at constant prices has increased by 7.0% per annum.

(b): A substantial number of people in the country are afflicted with inadequacy of such amenities/facilities in varying measures.

(c) & (d): The UNDP's millennium development goal relating to poverty is to "Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the Percentage of Population below the National Poverty Line". This implies that India has to reduce poverty ratio from about 47.5 percent in 1990 to about 23.75 percent by 2015. In 2009-10, the poverty has come down to 29.8%. With continued growth in GDP and a more rapid growth in agriculture, the poverty Head Count Ratio is expected to be close to the MDG target by 2015.

The UNDP's millennium development goal relating to Education is to "Ensure that by 2015 children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary education". According to District Information System on Education (DISE) primary enrolment of 6-10 year old children by their Net Enrolment Ratio (NER) measure has improved from 83% in 2000 to 98.3% in 2009-10. A trend based on DISE data shows the country now well set to achieve cent percent NER ahead of 2015.

As per the World Development Report 2012, brought out by the World Bank, in 2004-05, the percentage of people living on less than \$1.25 a day in South Asia has declined from 51.15 in 1990 to 40.3% in 2005 and in India the decline is from 51.3% in 1990 to 41.6% in 2005.

(e) & (f): Government is fully committed to working for the reduction and eventual elimination of poverty. The Eleventh Five Year Plan, for achieving inclusive growth, aimed at reduction in the Head-Count Ratio of Consumption Poverty by 10 percentage points during the Plan period (2007-12). The 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. and the poverty reduction during 11th Five Year Plan would be assessed on the basis of this data.