

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PLANNING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6468  
ANSWERED ON:16.05.2012  
WORLD BANK REPORT ON POVERTY  
Lal Shri Kirodi

**Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether as per a report of the World Bank, 41.6 per cent population of India is poor as per the international standard;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has not accepted the international poverty norms so as to show the number of poor as less than the actual numbers thereof; 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 (DR. ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) to (d): 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 Government of India does not use 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.

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. For 2004-05, the Planning Commission has estimated poverty ratio in the country as 37.2%. On the basis of latest Large Sample Survey data on Household Consumer Expenditure collected by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) in its 66th round conducted during 2009-10, the percentage of people living below poverty line in the country has come down from 37.2% in 2004-05 to 29.8% in 2009-10.

Government has, however, decided to set up a Technical Group to revisit the methodology for estimation of poverty and identification of poor taking into account multiple dimensions and indicators of poverty so that the poor and deprived households can obtain the benefit of different government programmes and schemes. The composition of the Technical Group and its terms of reference are being finalized.