

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PLANNING  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:13  
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2012  
SURVEY OF BPL IN BACKWARD TRIBAL AREAS  
Choudhary Shri Bhudeo

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

- (a) whether the Planning Commission has commissioned any survey of the backward/tribal areas so as to estimate poverty;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the criteria for determining the poverty level in this regard; and
- (d) the details of the schemes to redefine the poverty level in accordance with the galloping inflation along with the ceiling at which poverty level is likely to be fixed?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 13 REGARDING "SURVEY OF BPL IN BACKWARD TRIBAL AREAS" RAISED BY SHRI BHUDEO CHOUDHARY DUE FOR ANSWER ON 8th August, 2012.

(a) & (b): No, Madam. The Planning Commission estimates poverty on the basis of Large Sample Survey data on household consumer expenditure collected by National Sample Survey Office, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. These surveys are conducted in all the States and Union Territories of the Country on a sample basis including backward tribal areas.

(c): The Planning Commission defines poverty line on the basis of Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE). 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. Large Sample Surveys on Household Consumer Expenditure are conducted every 5 years. After 2004-05, this survey has been conducted in 2009-10. Planning Commission has updated the poverty lines for the year 2009-10 as per the recommendations of the Tendulkar Committee using NSS 66th round (2009-10) data of Household Consumer Expenditure Survey and released poverty estimates for 2009-10 on 19th March 2012. According to this, poverty line at all India level is estimated as MPCE of Rs. 673 for rural areas and Rs 860 for urban areas in 2009-10, which amounts to a monthly consumption Expenditure of Rs.3,365 in Rural areas and Rs. 4,300 in urban areas for a family of five at 2009-10 prices.

(d): Planning Commission, in June 2012, has constituted an Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. Rangarajan to "Review the Methodology for Measurement of Poverty". This Committee will review the methodology for measurement of poverty and also recommend, inter-alia, how the estimates of poverty should be linked to eligibility and entitlements for schemes and programmes under the Government of India.