

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PLANNING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1865

ANSWERED ON:05.12.2012

INCOME CEILING FOR BPL

Tudu Shri Laxman;Yadav Shri M. Anjan Kumar

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering inclusion of persons earning Rs. 5000/- per month in the BPL category;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken to raise the income ceiling for inclusion in BPL category keeping in view the rising inflation?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND PLANNING(SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA)

(a) to (d): There is no such proposal under consideration. The Planning Commission defines poverty line on the basis of Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE). According to the latest estimates, the Poverty line at all India level is estimated as Monthly Per-capita Consumption Expenditure 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. These poverty lines are updated for subsequent years by using inflation indices.

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". In order to ensure the contemporary relevance of the poverty line and to ensure that suitable weightage is given to different parameters in computing the poverty line consistent with the current ground realities the Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Dr. Rangarajan has been given comprehensive terms of reference for computation of poverty estimates including suggesting a methodology for updating consumption poverty lines using the new consumer price indices launched by the CSO for rural and urban areas state-wise.