

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3076
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2012
BPL STATUS
Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has finalised the yard sticks to be applied in determining BPL status of the poor people; and
(b) if so, the details thereof with special reference to the committees of experts constituted in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The Planning Commission defines poverty line 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. 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 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 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.

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.