

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:42

ANSWERED ON:07.08.2013

REDUCTION IN POVERTY

Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan;Putul Kumari Smt.

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether as per the latest National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) data, poverty in the country has reduced from 37.2% in 2004-05 to 21.9% in 2011-12;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise including the criteria used to determine poverty in the country;
- (c) whether the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Report 2013 has also brought out the data regarding poverty reduction in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the targets set under MDG?

Answer

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 42 REGARDING "REDUCTION IN POVERTY" RAISED BY SHRIMATI PUTUL KUMARI AND SHRI GAJANAN D. BABAR DUE FOR ANSWER ON 7th AUGUST, 2013.

(a) & (b): The Planning Commission estimates the extent of poverty from the Large Sample Surveys on Household Consumer Expenditure carried out by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation based on poverty lines determined by an Expert Committee. The NSSO surveys are normally conducted on quinquennial basis. However, because the last quinquennial survey in 2009-10 occurred in a drought year, it was decided to conduct a Large Sample Survey on Household Consumer Expenditure in 2011-12. Although the Tendulkar poverty line is currently under review by an Expert Group chaired by Dr. C. Rangarajan, it was felt that since the data for 2009-10 were reported in the 12th Plan based on the Tendulkar poverty line, the same methodology should be used for the 2011-12 data to give a comparable estimate for 2011-12, which is last year of the 11th Plan period. The poverty lines and poverty ratios for 2011-12 have been computed following the extant Tendulkar methodology based on Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure and these have been released through a Press Note issued on 22nd July 2013. According to this Press Note, the poverty ratio in the country has come down from 37.2% in 2004-05 to 21.9% in 2011-12. The State/UT-wise details of poverty ratio in 2004-05 and 2011-12 are given at Annexure.

(c) & (d): As per the Millennium Development Goals Report 2013 (UNDP), the poverty rate in India fell from 49 per cent in 1994 to 42 per cent in 2005 and to 33 per cent in 2010. Further, the report states that if the current pace continues, India will meet the poverty reduction target by 2015.

(e): Government has initiated various measures to improve the quality of life of the people and to reduce poverty in the country through direct intervention by implementing specific poverty reduction and mitigation programmes such as: Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS), Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM), Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), etc. All other policy initiatives of the government which have led to higher GDP growth in the country have individually and collectively contributed to raising the living standards of people over time and to the decline of absolute poverty. This is reflected in the decline in the poverty ratio by 2.2 percentage points per year during the seven years from 2004-05 to 2011-12 as compared to only 0.7 percentage points per year during the eleven years 1993-94 to 2004-05.