

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2432
ANSWERED ON:05.02.2014
CRITERIA FOR BPL FAMILIES
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Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) the criteria laid down by various authorities to determine the number of people living Below Poverty Line (BPL);
- (b) whether the criteria of various authorities vary widely and are causing confusion while determining the poverty line and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the name of the authority which can be relied upon in this regard;
- (d) whether the number of persons living below BPL has been increasing or decreasing as per the updated Government figures; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise/UT-wise?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): Planning Commission is the nodal agency in the Government of India for estimation of poverty at the national and state level and hence, other Ministries and Departments of Government does not estimate this. 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. These surveys are normally conducted on quinquennial basis.

The Planning Commission estimates the extent of poverty using a poverty line defined in terms of the Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE). The methodology for estimation of poverty followed by the Planning Commission has been based on the recommendations made by the experts in the field from time to time. The Planning Commission constituted an Expert Group under the chairmanship of Prof. Suresh D. Tendulkar in 2005 to review the methodology for estimation of poverty. The Tendulkar Committee recommended MPCE of Rs. 447 for rural areas and Rs 579 for urban areas as the poverty line for the year 2004-05, which was accepted by the Planning commission. Since January 2011, the Planning Commission has been using Tendulkar Committee methodology to estimate the poverty line and the poverty ratio at national and state level. For the year 2011-12, the Planning Commission, using the poverty line recommended by the Tendulkar Committee for 2004-05 and updating it to 2011-12 has estimated the poverty lines as monthly per capita consumption expenditure (MPCE) of Rs. 816 in rural areas and Rs. 1000 in urban areas.

In conformity of its practice of reviewing the methodology for estimation of poverty, 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.

(d) & (e): The latest data of Large Sample Survey on household consumer expenditure has been collected by NSSO in its 68th round conducted in 2011-12. As per the estimates of Planning Commission, the number of persons living below the poverty line in the country has declined from 40.74 crore in 2004-05 to 27.0 crore in 2011-12. The state-wise details on the number of persons living below poverty line in 2004-05 and 2011-12 are given in Annexure I.