

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2054  
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2013  
IMPACT OF SUBSIDY  
Ram Shri Purnmasi

**Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the provision of food subsidy during the last and the current Five Year Plan has had a very minimal effect on poverty alleviation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has sought the opinion of industry and general public in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details along with the outcome thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
(PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

- (a) & (b): Due to various measures taken by the Government the percentage of population living Below Poverty Line (BPL) in the States has declined from 37.2% in the year 2004-05 to 21.9% in the year 2011-12. Providing subsidized foodgrains to the people living below poverty line is one of such measures. A comparative statement indicating the decline in number of BPL population over the years in percentage term is annexed.
- (c): No, Madam (d): Doesn't arise.