

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:183

ANSWERED ON:02.12.2009

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING POVERTY

Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh; Singh Shri Rajiv Ranjan (Lalan)

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has constituted any Committee to formulate fresh criteria to determine and define poverty in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the composition and terms of reference of the Committee;
- (c) whether the Committee has submitted its report/interim report; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government on the recommendations of the Committee?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 183 REGARDING "CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING POVERTY" BY SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH ALIAS LALAN SINGH AND SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI DUE FOR ANSWER ON 02nd DECEMBER, 2009

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The planning Commission constituted an Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Prof. Suresh D. Tendulkar on 2nd December, 2005 to Review the Methodology for Estimation of Poverty. The other Members of the Expert Group are Dr. R. Radhakrishna, Director, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai, Prof. Raghav Ghaia, Faculty of Management Science, University of Delhi and Dr. Suranjan Sen Gupta of Kolkata. The terms of the reference of the Committee are as follows :

- i. To examine the issues relating to the comparability of the 50th, 55th and 61st round, of survey undertaken by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) and to suggest methodologies for deriving such comparability with past and future surveys.
- ii. To review alternative conceptualizations of poverty, and the associated technical aspects of procedures of measurement and data base for empirical estimation including procedures for updating over time and across states.
- iii. In the light of (ii), to recommend any changes in the existing procedures of official estimates of poverty.
- iv. The Chairman of the Expert Group may set up sub-committees if necessary for undertaking in-depth studies.
- v. The Group may co-opt and consult non-official experts/representatives of other agencies if required.

(c): No, Sir. The Expert Group has not submitted its report/interim report, as yet.

(d): Does not arise.