

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3264

ANSWERED ON:01.08.2014

POVERTY IN INDIA

Laguri Smt. Sakuntala;Patle Smt. Kamla Devi;Singh Shri Sunil Kumar

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of a recent report/study released by World Bank regarding world's poorest people living in India, if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto;
- (b) whether the Government has conducted any survey regarding the number of people living below poverty line in urban and rural areas separately;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether as per Government estimate, poverty in the country has been declining over the years; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the steps taken by the Government for the upliftment of the poor people?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE (RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a): Yes, Madam. According to World Bank draft note released in April, 2013 entitled "The State of the Poor: Where are the Poor and where are the Poorest?", prepared by Pedro Olinto and Hiroki Uematsu, it was estimated that in 2010, there were 1.2 billion persons living on less than US \$ 1.25 a day at world level. The note also states that about one-third of them live in India. Planning Commission does not use the international poverty norms set by the World Bank to estimate number of poor in the country primarily because international poverty line does not distinguish between rural and urban areas or between different States of the country.

(b) & (c): The Planning Commission estimates 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 cover both rural and urban areas and are normally conducted on quinquennial basis. The latest data of Large Sample Survey on Household Consumer Expenditure has been collected by NSSO in its 68th round conducted in 2011-12. The poverty lines and poverty ratios for 2011-12 have been computed following the extant Tendulkar methodology and these have been released through a Press Note issued on 22nd July 2013. The State/UT-wise number of persons living below poverty line is given at Annexure.

(d) & (e): Based on the two latest estimates of poverty, the poverty ratio in the country has come down from 37.2% in 2004-05 to 21.9% in 2011-12. 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.