

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1098
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2014
UNDP REPORT ON POVERTY
Godse Shri Hemant Tukaram

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note eight Indian States having more poors than 26 African Nations as per assessment of United Nation Development Programme (UNDP);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE
(RAO Inderjit Singh)

(a) & (b): The Human Development Report (HDR) 2010 of United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) entitled "The Real Wealth of Nations: Pathways to Human Development" introduced a new measure developed by Oxford University to capture what is described as multidimensional aspect of poverty called Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI). It is mentioned in HDR-2010 that 'eight Indian states, with poverty as acute as the 26 poorest African countries, are home to 421 million multidimensionally poor people, more than the 410 million people living in those African countries combined'. These states were Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

The methodology for estimation of poverty line followed by the Planning Commission has been based on the recommendations made by the experts in the field. The Planning Commission reviews the methodology for estimation of poverty from time to time to make the estimates of poverty contemporaneous. The present poverty estimates are based on the methodology recommended by the Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Prof. Suresh D. Tendulkar in 2009. As per the latest available estimates for 2011-12, number of persons living below the Poverty Line in these states has been estimated as 184.5 million.

(c): 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), National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM), 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.