

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PLANNING

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *59
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.02.2020

CONSENSUS ON POVERTY LINE

*59. SHRI JYOTIRMAY SINGH MAHATO:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any consensus has emerged on the modified modus operandi for defining poverty line in the country;
- (b) if so, the present details in this regard mentioning the expected date of its declaration;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to work out a permanent solution for determining the poverty line by linking it to price index for ensuring that the poverty line could be more realistic; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING
AND MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF
STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

(RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 59* REGARDING “CONSENSUS ON POVERTY LINE” RAISED BY SHRI JYOTIRMAY SINGH MAHATO DUE FOR ANSWER ON 5th FEBRUARY, 2020.

(a) to (e) Pursuant to the decision taken in the first meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog held under the Chairmanship of Hon’ble Prime Minister on 8th February, 2015, a Task Force on Elimination of Poverty in India was constituted by NITI Aayog on 16th March, 2015 under the Chairmanship of Dr. Arvind Panagariya, former Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog. The report of the Task Force was submitted to Prime Minister’s Office on 11th July, 2016. The Terms of Reference for the Task Force inter alia included to “Develop a working definition of poverty”. The report of the Task Force primarily focuses on issues of measurement of poverty and strategies to combat poverty. Regarding estimation of poverty, the report of the Task Force states that “a consensus in favour of either the Tendulkar or a higher poverty line did not emerge. Therefore, the Task Force has concluded that the matter be considered in greater depth by the country’s top experts on poverty before a final decision is made. Accordingly, it is recommended that an expert committee be set up to arrive at an informed decision on the level at which the poverty line should be set.” The Report of the Task Force is under consideration of the Government.
