

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 15.12.2009
ANSWERED ON
ESTIMATION OF POVERTY IN THE COUNTRY .

2913

SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether about 38 per cent of the country's population are poor according to a committee of Government to estimate poverty;
- (b) whether this figure is 10 per cent higher than the present poverty estimate;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether in June this year another Rural Development Committee estimated 50 per cent Indians were poor against Planning Commission's figure of 28.5 per cent; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by Government to identify correctly the figure of poor for exact targeting of scores of Government schemes meant for the poor people in our country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

(SHRI PRADEEP JAIN `ADITYA`)

(a)to(c): The Expert Group set up by the Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of Prof. Suresh D Tendulkar to review the methodology for estimation of poverty has just submitted its report on 8-12-2009 which has redefined the poverty line, according to which, the poverty ratio in the country was 37.2 percent in 2004-05 as against the poverty ratio of 27.5 percent of the Planning Commission.

(d): The terms of reference of the Expert Group under the chairmanship of Dr. N. C. Saxena to advise the Ministry of Rural Development on the methodology for conducting the Below Poverty Line (BPL) Census for the 11th Five Year Plan does not include estimation of poverty. However in the Report submitted by the Expert Group on 21st August 2009 it is mentioned that the percentage of people entitled to BPL status should be revised upwards to at least 50%.

(e):The Planning Commission is examining the Report of the Expert Group headed by Professor Suresh D. Tendulkar for suitable action.