

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PLANNING
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 19.11.2009
ANSWERED ON
CONCEPT OF POVERTY .

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SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether Government has undertaken a review of the concept of Poverty in view of the changing perceptions and needs of the common man, on the eve of the Twelfth Five Year Plan;
- (b) if so, the conclusions arrived at; and
- (c) the steps taken to carry out?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

(a),(b) & (c): The Planning Commission has been estimating incidence of poverty (since the sixth Five Year Plan) on the basis of the recommendations of Task Force on projections of Minimum Needs and Effective Consumption Demand. Based on this methodology, estimates of poverty were made at national and state levels for the years 1972-73, 1977-78, 1983-84 and 1987-88. In September, 1989, in order to look into the methodology for estimation of poverty at national and state level and also to go into the question of re-defining the poverty line, if necessary, the Planning Commission constituted an Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of poor under the Chairmanship of Prof. D. T. Lakdawala. The Expert Group submitted its report in July, 1993. The report while accepting the definition of poverty used by the Task Force, set out an alternative methodology for estimation of poverty and provided estimates of poverty at national and state level from the quinquennial consumer expenditure survey of the National Sample Survey (NSS) using state specific poverty lines and the Planning Commission has been using this methodology since then.

Now an Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Prof. Suresh D. Tendulkar has been constituted by the Planning Commission on 2nd December 2005, to review the methodology for estimation of poverty of the country. The expert group is yet to submit its report.

