

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PLANNING

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 300
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.02.2024

PEOPLE LIVING BELOW POVERTY LINE (BPL)

300 SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the total number of people living Below Poverty Line (BPL) and in Extreme Poverty has been reduced in last five years, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of methodology which is used for calculating people living Below Poverty Line (BPL) and the numbers and percentage of population living Below Poverty Line; and
- (c) whether Government has reviewed the methodology for poverty measurement in the country during the last five years, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION; MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS

(RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a) To (c) In 2020, NITI Aayog was identified as the nodal agency for the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), responsible for constructing an indigenized index to monitor the performance of States and Union Territories. The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), based on the Alkire-Foster (AF) methodology, is an internationally recognized measure that complements monetary measures of poverty by capturing overlapping deprivations in dimensions such as health, education, and standard of living. NITI Aayog constituted an inter-ministerial MPI Coordination Committee (MPICC) including Ministries and Departments pertaining to areas such as health, education, nutrition, rural development, drinking water, sanitation, electricity, and urban development, among others. It also included experts from the Ministry of Statistics and

Programme Implementation and the technical partners – United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI). As a result, a comprehensive National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) for India was developed. The baseline report was published in November 2021 and the second edition of the National MPI report was released in July 2023.

As per the report ‘National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progress Review 2023’, the proportion of individuals who are multidimensionally poor declined from 24.85% to 14.96% between 2015-16 and 2019-21, resulting in 13.5 crore individuals escaping multidimensional poverty during this period.

In January 2024, NITI Aayog has released a discussion paper ‘Multidimensional Poverty in India since 2005-06’ capturing the estimates of multidimensional poverty from 2005-06 to 2022-23. According to the discussion paper, India has registered a significant decline in multidimensional poverty from 29.17% in 2013-14 to 11.28% in 2022-23, resulting in 24.82 crore people escaping multidimensional poverty in the last nine years.
