

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PLANNING

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1267**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.03.2025

**POVERTY ESTIMATION AND METHODOLOGICAL CHALLENGES**

1267 SMT. RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has reviewed the methodologies used to estimate poverty, including the Tendulkar, Rangarajan, and Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) approaches, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has initiated steps to establish a unified poverty line methodology for accurate and consistent poverty estimation, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken to address the criticisms of the MPI, including concerns about the static nature of certain indicators and their applicability to diverse household contexts?

**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 CULTURE

(RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

- (a) to (c) In 2021, Government of India has developed a Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) framework to measure poverty. It is a comprehensive index that captures overlapping deprivations in dimensions such as health, education and standard of living. The index is based on the internationally recognized measure of poverty – Global Multidimensional Poverty Index, published by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI). It comprises of 12 indicators, out of which ten indicators are retained from the global MPI model and two additional indicators viz. Maternal Health and Bank Accounts are added in line with national priorities. This index is closely aligned to the global methodology and is globally accepted.

The details are in public domain and can be accessed at <https://www.niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2023-08/India-National-Multidimensional-Poverty-Index-2023.pdf>

\*\*\*\*\*