

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 264
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.08.2025

POVERTY SURVEY IN THE COUNTRY

*264 SHRI P. P. SUNEER:

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the existing criteria for determining poverty for a household in rural and urban areas, details of headcount for poor according to existing criteria;
- (b) whether Government has undertaken any survey to assess the level of poverty during the last three years;
- (c) whether Government intends to update the criteria for determining poverty line in tune with climate change and erratic weather impacting livelihoods; and
- (d) number of people lifted from poverty according to Government data during the last three years, including the basis or study conducted to determine the number, nature and extent taken into consideration to define poverty?

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 (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (A) TO (D) OF RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 264 FOR REPLY ON 18.08.2025 REGARDING
POVERTY SURVEY IN THE COUNTRY ASKED BY SHRI P. P. SUNEER**

(a) to (c): In 2021, Government of India 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. It measures both the share of people in poverty and the degree to which they are deprived. 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 is the only methodology that is being used presently to measure poverty.

(d): The second edition of the index was released in 2023. As per the latest National MPI Report, 2023 released by NITI Aayog, the proportion of population in multidimensional poverty declined from 24.85% to 14.96% between 2015-16 and 2019-21, indicating that about 135.5 million persons have escaped poverty during the period. The rural areas witnessed the fastest decline in poverty from 32.59% to 19.28%. During the same period, the urban areas saw a reduction in poverty from 8.65% to 5.27%. Further, as per the discussion paper ‘Multidimensional Poverty in India since 2005-06’ published by NITI Aayog, multidimensional poverty in India is estimated to have declined from 29.17% in 2013-14 to 11.28% in 2022-23 implying that 248.2 million people have escaped poverty during this period.
