

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PLANNING

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 950
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.07.2025

REVISION OF POVERTY LINE

950 SHRI RANDEEP SINGH SURJEWALA:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has reviewed the adequacy of the existing national poverty line in light of evolving consumption patterns and cost of living;
- (b) whether the poverty line has been revised over the last five years despite inflation and changes in consumption patterns;
- (c) whether Government proposes to update the national poverty line more frequently, in order to reflect current cost of living conditions in rural and urban areas; and
- (d) whether any steps have been taken to introduce dynamic poverty estimation mechanisms using interim indicators such as inflation and expenditure growth, in the absence of frequent consumption surveys?

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) 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. 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.

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.

The details of the same 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>, https://www.niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2024-01/MPI-22_NITI-Aayog20254.pdf .
