

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1051
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24TH JULY, 2018

ESTIMATION OF POVERTY

1051. SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the parameters for measurement of poverty for the targeted public distribution schemes of the Ministry;
- (b) whether the Government has amended the methodology of the Planning Commission (now NITI Aayog) for estimation of poverty in the country; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

(a): The objective of the National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) is to provide food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity. The Act provides for coverage of upto 75% of rural population and upto 50% of urban population for receiving highly subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), thus covering about two-thirds of the total population. Coverage under the Act has been delinked from the poverty estimates and is substantially high to ensure that all the vulnerable and needy sections of the society get its benefit.

(b) & (c): Pursuant to the decision taken in the first meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog held under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister on 8th February, 2015, a Task Force on Elimination of Poverty in India was constituted by NITI Aayog under the Chairmanship of Dr. Arvind Panagariya, former Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog. The Task Force has submitted its report, which primarily focuses on issues of measurement of poverty and strategies to combat poverty.