

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PLANNING**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.3557
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.01.2019**

ELIMINATION OF POVERTY

3557. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA:
SHRI PONGULETI SRINIVASA REDDY:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a poverty elimination working group was set-up by the NITI Aayog with an objective of making India poverty free;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether terms of reference for poverty elimination included the outlining of a pragmatic definition of poverty and making suggestions for improvements in strategies and programmes of poverty elimination including the existing programme; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS**

(RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a) to (d) 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 on 16th March, 2015 under the Chairmanship of Dr. Arvind Panagariya, former Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog. Terms of Reference of the Task Force of NITI Aayog were as follows:

- i. To coordinate and develop synergy with the Central Ministries and State Governments Task Forces.
- ii. To develop a working definition of poverty.
- iii. To prepare a roadmap for the elimination of poverty.
- iv. To suggest strategies and anti-poverty programmes including reform of the existing ones.
- v. To identify successful anti-poverty programmes from which all states and UTs can learn,
- vi. Any other relevant measures.

The report of the Task Force was submitted to Prime Minister's Office on 11th July, 2016. The report of the Task Force primarily focuses on issues of measurement of poverty and strategies to combat poverty. Regarding estimation of poverty, the report of the Task Force states that "a consensus in favour of either the Tendulkar or a higher poverty line did not emerge. Therefore, the Task Force has concluded that the matter be considered in greater depth by the country's top experts on poverty before a final decision is made. Accordingly, it is recommended that an expert committee be set up to arrive at an informed decision on the level at which the poverty line should be set". With respect to strategies to combat poverty, the Task Force has made recommendations on faster poverty reduction through employment intensive sustained rapid growth and effective implementation of anti-poverty programmes. The report of the Task Force is under consideration of the Government.
