

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PLANNING

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 570
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.09.2020

DECLINE IN POVERTY

†570. SHRI ARUN SAO:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether poverty is declining in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the State-wise number of people living below poverty line in the country including Chhattisgarh;
- (c) whether the Government carries out a periodical review of methodology to assess the poverty;
- (d) if so, the details with regard to review conducted during the last three years; and
- (e) the outcome of the said review and the reaction of the Government thereto?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND
MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS &
PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

(RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

- (a) The official poverty estimates are based on data of Large Sample Surveys on Household Consumer Expenditure carried out by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. The latest data of Large Sample Survey on Household Consumer Expenditure has been collected by NSSO in its 68th round conducted in 2011-12. The poverty estimates for 2011-12 have been computed following the extant Tendulkar methodology and these have been released through a Press Note issued on 22nd July 2013. According to this Press Note, the number of persons living below poverty line in India has been estimated as 27 crore (21.9%) in 2011-12 as compared to 40.76 crore (37.2%) in 2004-05. The rate of decline of poverty ratio during 2004-05 to 2011-12 was 2.18 % per year.
- (b) The State-wise number of people living below poverty line in the country including Chhattisgarh are given at **Annexure**.
- (c) &(d) In India, the erstwhile Planning Commission was the nodal agency in the Government for estimation of the poverty in the country and it used a poverty line based on per capita consumption expenditure as the criterion to determine the persons living below the poverty line (BPL). The methodology to estimate poverty has been reviewed from time to time. In 1977, the erstwhile

Planning Commission constituted a Task Force on poverty under the chairmanship of Dr. Y.K. Alagh which submitted its report in 1979 and the erstwhile Planning Commission accepted its recommendations in the same year. In September, 1989, it constituted the Expert Group under the chairmanship of Prof. D.T. Lakdawala for estimation of poverty and it submitted its report in 1993 and erstwhile Planning Commission accepted its recommendations in 1997. The erstwhile Planning Commission constituted an Expert Group under the chairmanship of Prof. Suresh D. Tendulkar in 2005 to review the methodology for estimation of poverty. The expert group submitted its report in November, 2009 and the erstwhile Planning Commission accepted its recommendations in January, 2011. Presently, the official poverty estimates are based on Tendulkar methodology. In June 2012, erstwhile Planning Commission constituted an Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. Rangarajan to “Review the Methodology for Measurement of Poverty”. The Expert Group submitted its report on 30th June 2014. However, the Government is yet to take decision on the report submitted by the Expert Group.

After the formation of NITI Aayog which replaced the erstwhile Planning Commission a Task Force on Elimination of Poverty in India was constituted on 16th March, 2015 under the Chairmanship of Dr. Arvind Panagariya, former Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog. The report of the Task Force was submitted to Prime Minister’s Office on 11th July, 2016. The Terms of Reference for the Task Force inter alia included to “Develop a working definition of poverty”. 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.”

(e) The Report of the Task Force is under consideration of the Government.

Number and Percentage of Population below poverty line by states-2011-12 (Tendulkar Methodology)

Sl. No.	States	Rural		Urban		Total	
		%age of Persons	No. of Persons (lakhs)	%age of Persons	No. of Persons (lakhs)	%age of Persons	No. of Persons (lakhs)
1	Andhra Pradesh	10.96	61.80	5.81	16.98	9.20	78.78
2	Arunachal Pradesh	38.93	4.25	20.33	0.66	34.67	4.91
3	Assam	33.89	92.06	20.49	9.21	31.98	101.27
4	Bihar	34.06	320.40	31.23	37.75	33.74	358.15
5	Chhattisgarh	44.61	88.90	24.75	15.22	39.93	104.11
6	Delhi	12.92	0.50	9.84	16.46	9.91	16.96
7	Goa	6.81	0.37	4.09	0.38	5.09	0.75
8	Gujarat	21.54	75.35	10.14	26.88	16.63	102.23
9	Haryana	11.64	19.42	10.28	9.41	11.16	28.83
10	Himachal Pradesh	8.48	5.29	4.33	0.30	8.06	5.59
11	Jammu & Kashmir	11.54	10.73	7.20	2.53	10.35	13.27
12	Jharkhand	40.84	104.09	24.83	20.24	36.96	124.33
13	Karnataka	24.53	92.80	15.25	36.96	20.91	129.76
14	Kerala	9.14	15.48	4.97	8.46	7.05	23.95
15	Madhya Pradesh	35.74	190.95	21.00	43.10	31.65	234.06
16	Maharashtra	24.22	150.56	9.12	47.36	17.35	197.92
17	Manipur	38.80	7.45	32.59	2.78	36.89	10.22
18	Meghalaya	12.53	3.04	9.26	0.57	11.87	3.61
19	Mizoram	35.43	1.91	6.36	0.37	20.40	2.27
20	Nagaland	19.93	2.76	16.48	1.00	18.88	3.76
21	Odisha	35.69	126.14	17.29	12.39	32.59	138.53
22	Punjab	7.66	13.35	9.24	9.82	8.26	23.18
23	Rajasthan	16.05	84.19	10.69	18.73	14.71	102.92
24	Sikkim	9.85	0.45	3.66	0.06	8.19	0.51
25	Tamil Nadu	15.83	59.23	6.54	23.40	11.28	82.63
26	Tripura	16.53	4.49	7.42	0.75	14.05	5.24
27	Uttarakhand	11.62	8.25	10.48	3.35	11.26	11.60
28	Uttar Pradesh	30.40	479.35	26.06	118.84	29.43	598.19
29	West Bengal	22.52	141.14	14.66	43.83	19.98	184.98
30	Puducherry	17.06	0.69	6.30	0.55	9.69	1.24
31	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1.57	0.04	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.04
32	Chandigarh	1.64	0.004	22.31	2.34	21.81	2.35
33	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	62.59	1.15	15.38	0.28	39.31	1.43
34	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	12.62	0.26	9.86	0.26
35	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	3.44	0.02	2.77	0.02
	All India	25.70	2166.58	13.70	531.25	21.92	2697.83

Notes: 1. Population as on 1st March 2012 has been used for estimating number of persons below poverty line. (2011 Census population extrapolated)

2. Poverty line of Tamil Nadu has been used for Andaman and Nicobar Island.

3. Urban Poverty Line of Punjab has been used for both rural and urban areas of Chandigarh.

4. Poverty Line of Maharashtra has been used for Dadra & Nagar Haveli.

5. Poverty line of Goa has been used for Daman & Diu.

6. Poverty Line of Kerala has been used for Lakshadweep.
