

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PLANNING

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 233**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.07.2024

**PEOPLE LIVING BELOW THE POVERTY LINE**

233 SHRI RAJU BISTA:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has data on the number of people living below the poverty line in India and if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (b) whether there has been a decrease in the percentage of people living below the poverty line particularly in the districts of Darjeeling, Kalimpong and North Dinajpur and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government plans on rolling out schemes and programmes for financial cushioning to keep people from slipping back into chronic poverty particularly in West Bengal; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**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) & (b) In 2020, NITI Aayog was identified as the nodal agency for the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), responsible for constructing an indigenized index to monitor the performance of States and Union Territories. The MPI, based on the Alkire-Foster (AF) methodology, is an internationally recognized measure that complements monetary measures of poverty by capturing overlapping deprivations in dimensions such as health, education, and standard of living. NITI Aayog constituted an inter-ministerial MPI Coordination Committee (MPICC) including Ministries and Departments pertaining to areas such as health, education, nutrition, rural development, drinking water, sanitation, electricity, and urban development,

among others. It also included experts from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation and the technical partners – United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI). As a result, a comprehensive National MPI for India was developed. The baseline report was published in November 2021 and the second edition of the National MPI report was released in July 2023.

As per NITI Aayog's report 'National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progress Review 2023', an overview of State/UT: Headcount ratio, Intensity and Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index (MPI), is given at Annexure.

As per NITI Aayog's report 'National Multidimensional Poverty Index: A Progress Review 2023' a steep decline has been reported in number of multidimensionally poor in India from 24.85% to 14.96% between 2015-16 to 2019-21 and particularly in the district of Darjeeling the proportion of individuals who are multidimensionally poor declined from 11.32% to 5.45% and in North Dinajpur from 42.84% to 21.65% between 2015-16 to 2019-21. However, the data for the district of Kalimpong is not available.

In January 2024, NITI Aayog has released a discussion paper 'Multidimensional Poverty in India since 2005-06' capturing the estimates of multidimensional poverty from 2005-06 to 2022-23. According to the discussion paper, India has registered a significant decline in multidimensional poverty from 29.17% in 2013-14 to 11.28% in 2022-23.

(c) & (d) The Government has initiated several Central sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes covering targeted beneficiaries that aim to improve the quality of life of the people and aimed at reducing population below poverty line in the country including the state of West Bengal. The schemes either directly benefit the citizens through direct benefit transfer of resources/ money or provide facilities by creating enabling infrastructural provisions. These include Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (Mahatma Gandhi NREGS), Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana– National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), Deen Dayal Upadhyay – Gramin Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY), Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs), National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojna (PMGKAY), Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY), etc.

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) AND (b) OF LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 233 FOR 24.07.2024 TO SHRI RAJU BISTA  
REGARDING PEOPLE LIVING BELOW THE POVERTY LINE:**

Admin Type	State	NFHS 4 (2015-16)			NFHS 5 (2019-21)		
		Headcount Ratio (H)	Intensity (A)	MPI	Headcount Ratio (H)	Intensity (A)	MPI
State	Andhra Pradesh	11.77%	43.28%	0.051	6.06%	41.12%	0.025
	Arunachal Pradesh	24.23%	47.25%	0.115	13.76%	43.04%	0.059
	Assam	32.65%	47.88%	0.156	19.35%	44.41%	0.086
	Bihar	51.89%	51.01%	0.265	33.76%	47.40%	0.160
	Chhattisgarh	29.90%	44.64%	0.133	16.37%	42.61%	0.070
	Goa	3.76%	40.13%	0.015	0.84%	38.69%	0.003
	Gujarat	18.47%	44.97%	0.083	11.66%	43.25%	0.050
	Haryana	11.88%	44.40%	0.053	7.07%	43.34%	0.031
	Himachal Pradesh	7.59%	39.44%	0.030	4.93%	40.22%	0.020
	Jharkhand	42.10%	47.92%	0.202	28.81%	45.59%	0.131
	Karnataka	12.77%	42.76%	0.055	7.58%	41.21%	0.031
	Kerala	0.70%	38.99%	0.003	0.55%	36.92%	0.002
	Madhya Pradesh	36.57%	47.25%	0.173	20.63%	43.70%	0.090
	Maharashtra	14.80%	43.76%	0.065	7.81%	41.77%	0.033
	Manipur	16.96%	44.61%	0.076	8.10%	41.91%	0.034
	Meghalaya	32.54%	48.08%	0.156	27.79%	48.01%	0.133
	Mizoram	9.78%	47.42%	0.046	5.30%	45.62%	0.024
	Nagaland	25.16%	46.29%	0.116	15.43%	42.61%	0.066
	Odisha	29.34%	46.42%	0.136	15.68%	44.50%	0.070
	Punjab	5.57%	43.74%	0.024	4.75%	41.22%	0.020
	Rajasthan	28.86%	47.34%	0.137	15.31%	42.70%	0.065
	Sikkim	3.82%	41.20%	0.016	2.60%	41.02%	0.011
	Tamil Nadu	4.76%	39.97%	0.019	2.20%	38.70%	0.009
	Telangana	13.18%	43.29%	0.057	5.88%	40.85%	0.024
	Tripura	16.62%	45.03%	0.075	13.11%	42.68%	0.056
	Uttar Pradesh	37.68%	47.60%	0.179	22.93%	44.83%	0.103
Uttarakhand	17.67%	44.35%	0.078	9.67%	41.99%	0.041	
West Bengal	21.29%	45.50%	0.097	11.89%	42.35%	0.050	
UT	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	4.29%	40.50%	0.017	2.30%	40.62%	0.009
	Chandigarh	5.97%	43.39%	0.026	3.52%	47.41%	0.017

Dadra & Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu	19.58%	44.23%	0.087	9.21%	42.15%	0.039
Delhi	4.44%	43.92%	0.020	3.43%	41.99%	0.014
Jammu & Kashmir	12.56%	44.17%	0.055	4.80%	42.11%	0.020
Ladakh	12.70%	40.37%	0.051	3.53%	41.20%	0.015
Lakshadweep	1.82%	35.80%	0.007	1.11%	36.47%	0.004
Puducherry	1.71%	38.55%	0.007	0.85%	38.03%	0.003

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