

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PLANNING**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1546  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.03.2016**

**POVERTY IN INDIA**

**†1546. DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR:  
SHRI PASHUPATI NATH SINGH:  
SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV:  
SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:  
SHRI BHAGWANTH KHUBA:  
SHRI V. ELUMALAI:  
SHRIMATI KAMLA DEVI PAATLE:**

Will the **Minister of PLANNING** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of people in the country are living Below Poverty Line (BPL), if so, the details thereof State/ UT-wise along with the criteria fixed to determine the BPL;
- (b) whether the Government has identified the reasons for the rise in poverty level in various States, particularly in Jharkhand, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Suresh Tendulkar Committee appointed to decide the criteria of poverty line has recommended to stop the separate calorie parameters for rural and urban areas, if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon;
- (d) whether the Government has any proposal to conduct a survey in collaboration with some community based organizations/NGOs to identify the poorest among poor people living in different States of the country, if so, the details thereof along with the time by which the said survey is likely to be completed;
- (e) whether the Government has taken any steps to review the performance of schemes/programmes being implemented for eradicating poverty in the country and if so, the details and findings thereof; and
- (f) the concrete measures taken/being taken by the Government to improve the quality of life of the poor people and reduce poverty in the country?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR MINISTRY OF PLANNING  
AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENCE  
(RAO INDERJIT SINGH)**

- (a) The erstwhile Planning Commission estimated the number of people living below the poverty line from the Large Sample Surveys on Household Consumer Expenditure carried out by the

National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. These surveys are normally conducted on quinquennial basis. The latest data of Large Sample Survey on Household Consumer Expenditure has been collected by NSSO in its 68<sup>th</sup> round conducted in 2011-12. Based on this data, the erstwhile Planning Commission estimated poverty lines and poverty ratio in 2011-12 following the extant Tendulkar Committee methodology and released through a Press Note issued on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2013. According to this Press Note, the number of persons living below poverty line in India has been estimated as 27 crore in 2011-12. The poverty line has been defined on the basis of Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE) as the criterion. For the year 2011-12, the poverty line at all India level has been estimated as MPCE of Rs. 816 for rural areas and Rs. 1000 for urban areas. These poverty lines vary from state to state because of price differentials. The State/UT wise poverty line and number of persons living below poverty line in 2011-12 are given at **Annexure I**.

(b) According to the Press Note issued on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2013, the poverty ratio in the country including in states like Jharkhand, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh has come down from 2004-05 to 2011-12. The State/UT-wise details of poverty ratio in 2004-05 and 2011-12 are given at **Annexure II**.

(c) The methodology for estimation of poverty followed by the erstwhile Planning Commission has been based on the recommendations made by the experts in the field from time to time. An Expert Group was constituted under the chairmanship of Prof. Suresh D. Tendulkar in 2005 to review the methodology for estimation of poverty. The Tendulkar Committee, which submitted its Report in 2009, has stated the following with regard to anchoring of poverty line with calorie norms:

*“The expert group has also taken a conscious decision to move away from anchoring the poverty lines to a calorie intake norm in view of the fact that calorie consumption calculated by converting the consumed quantities in the last 30 days as collected by NSS has not been found to be well correlated with the nutritional outcomes observed from other specialized surveys either over time or across space (i.e. between states or rural and urban areas).”*

The methodology recommended by the Tendulkar Committee was accepted by the erstwhile Planning Commission.

(d) At present, there is no such proposal to conduct a survey in collaboration with some community based organizations/NGOs to identify the poorest among poor people living in different States of the country.

(e) Various schemes/programmes being implemented by the Government help directly or indirectly in improving the standard of living of poor people thereby contributing in reduction of

poverty in the country. These schemes/programmes are reviewed from time to time and the findings of such reviews are considered while modifying the schemes/programmes. The Programme Evaluation Organisation (now Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) since September 2015) has been carrying out evaluation of the Central Sector Schemes and Centrally Sponsored Schemes. The main objective of these evaluation studies is to assess the impact and effectiveness of the schemes in addition to finding out any deficiencies or problems in the implementation/designs of the schemes in a view to give suitable recommendations for their timely resolution. The details and findings of these evaluation reports could be accessed on the erstwhile Planning Commission's website i.e., <http://planningcommission.gov.in/reports/peoreport/index.php?Reptspeobody.htm> and the NITI Aayog's website i.e. <http://www.niti.gov.in/content/reports.php>.

(f) The Government has initiated various measures to improve the quality of life of the people and to reduce poverty in the country through direct intervention by implementing specific poverty reduction and mitigation programmes. These include Prime Minister's Jan-DhanYojana (PMJDY), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM), Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation Mission (AMRUT), Housing for All, National Health Mission (NHM), Sarva Sikhsha Abhiyaan (SSA), Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS), Swachh Bharat Mission, National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)/ National Food Security Act (NFSA), road connectivity through the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti BimaYojana, the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Atal Pension Yojana etc. There are many other initiatives which are directly taken by the State Governments keeping in view the State and district-specific requirements. The emphasis of the Government is on "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" which symbolizes inclusive development.

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**Annexure I****Poverty Lines and number of persons living below poverty line for 2011-12  
(Tendulkar Methodology)**

S.No.	State	Poverty Line (Rs)		Number of persons (Lakhs)		
		Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Total
1	Andhra Pradesh	860	1009	61.8	17.0	78.8
2	Arunachal Pradesh	930	1060	4.2	0.7	4.9
3	Assam	828	1008	92.1	9.2	101.3
4	Bihar	778	923	320.4	37.8	358.2
5	Chhattisgarh	738	849	88.9	15.2	104.1
6	Delhi	1145	1134	0.5	16.5	17.0
7	Goa	1090	1134	0.4	0.4	0.8
8	Gujarat	932	1152	75.4	26.9	102.2
9	Haryana	1015	1169	19.4	9.4	28.8
10	Himachal Pradesh	913	1064	5.3	0.3	5.6
11	Jammu & Kashmir	891	988	10.7	2.5	13.3
12	Jharkhand	748	974	104.1	20.2	124.3
13	Karnataka	902	1089	92.8	37.0	129.8
14	Kerala	1018	987	15.5	8.5	23.9
15	Madhya Pradesh	771	897	191.0	43.1	234.1
16	Maharashtra	967	1126	150.6	47.4	197.9
17	Manipur	1118	1170	7.4	2.8	10.2
18	Meghalaya	888	1154	3.0	0.6	3.6
19	Mizoram	1066	1155	1.9	0.4	2.3
20	Nagaland	1270	1302	2.8	1.0	3.8
21	Odisha	695	861	126.1	12.4	138.5
22	Punjab	1054	1155	13.4	9.8	23.2
23	Rajasthan	905	1002	84.2	18.7	102.9
24	Sikkim	930	1226	0.4	0.1	0.5
25	Tamil Nadu	880	937	59.2	23.4	82.6
26	Tripura	798	920	4.5	0.8	5.2
27	Uttarakhand	880	1082	8.2	3.4	11.6
28	Uttar Pradesh	768	941	479.4	118.8	598.2
29	West Bengal	783	981	141.1	43.8	185.0
30	Puducherry	1301	1309	0.7	0.6	1.2
	<b>All India</b>	<b>816</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>2166.6</b>	<b>531.2</b>	<b>2697.8</b>

**Poverty ratio for 2004-05 and 2011-12  
(Tendulkar Methodology)**

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>States</b>	<b>2004-05</b>	<b>2011-12</b>
1	Andhra Pradesh	29.9	9.2
2	Arunachal Pradesh	31.1	34.7
3	Assam	34.4	32.0
4	Bihar	54.4	33.7
5	Chhattisgarh	49.4	39.9
6	Delhi	13.1	9.9
7	Goa	25.0	5.1
8	Gujarat	31.8	16.6
9	Haryana	24.1	11.2
10	Himachal Pradesh	22.9	8.1
11	Jammu & Kashmir	13.2	10.4
12	Jharkhand	45.3	37.0
13	Karnataka	33.4	20.9
14	Kerala	19.7	7.1
15	Madhya Pradesh	48.6	31.7
16	Maharashtra	38.1	17.4
17	Manipur	38.0	36.9
18	Meghalaya	16.1	11.9
19	Mizoram	15.3	20.4
20	Nagaland	9.0	18.9
21	Odisha	57.2	32.6
22	Puducherry	14.1	9.7
23	Punjab	20.9	8.3
24	Rajasthan	34.4	14.7
25	Sikkim	31.1	8.2
26	Tamil Nadu	28.9	11.3
27	Tripura	40.6	14.1
28	Uttar Pradesh	40.9	29.4
29	Uttarakhand	32.7	11.3
30	West Bengal	34.3	20.0
	<b>All India</b>	<b>37.2</b>	<b>21.9</b>