

Effective Consumption Demand" which submitted its report in 1979. According to this report, the poverty line is defined as the per capita monthly expenditure of Rs. 49,00 in rural areas and Rs. 5664 in urban areas at 1973-74 prices corresponding to the per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 in rural areas and 2100 in urban areas. The poverty line defined this way covers the expenditure on food and non-food items such as fuel, clothing, housing, health, education and (social services) and ensures adequacy of calories consumption. The updated poverty line is Rs. 107 per capita per month in rural areas and Rs. 122 per capita per month in urban areas at 1984-85 prices (base year of the Seventh Five Year Plan).

For the estimation of number of persons below poverty line the distribution of per capita consumption expenditure based on the results of NSSO data on household consumption expenditure is utilised. The latest estimates are based on the results of 38th round of NSSO.

Definition of poverty line

556. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE; Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state;

(a) what is the definition of poverty line as of now;

(b) the considerations or factors on which this definition is based; and

(c) whether the definition has been changed recently or is proposed to be changed; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SUKTI RAM); (a) and (b) The poverty line is defined as the per capita monthly expenditure of Rs; 49,09 in rural areas

and Rs- 56.64 in urban areas at 1973-74 prices corresponding to the per capita daily calorie requirements of 2400 in rural areas and 2100 in urban areas. The poverty line defined this way covers the expenditure on food and non-food items and ensures the adequacy of calorie consumption. The poverty line is updated periodically for price rise. The updated poverty line is Rs. 107 per capita per month in rural areas and Rs. 122 per capita per month in urban areas at 1984-85 prices.

(c) The definition of poverty line which was used in the Sixth Plan is continued in the Seventh Plan for maintaining continuity and comparison.

Anomaly in pay scale of assistants/ stenographers

557. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that before the recommendations of the Fourth Pay Commission, the pay scales of Assistants/Stenographers Grade 'C' were at par with those of the Excise Inspectors, Customs Inspectors, Sales-tax Inspectors and Junior Investigators;

(b) whether there is any variance in their pay-scales as a consequence of the recommendations of the Fourth Pay Commission;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government propose to take any steps to remove anomaly, if any?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI). (a) to (c) Pre-revised scales of pay and the revised scales of pay subsequent