

New method of estimating poverty

383. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to switch to a new method of estimating poverty in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the existing method to measure poverty are only based on food calorie intake of a person; and
- (d) if so, to what extent the new method of measuring poverty will help Government to tackle it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY):

(a) and (b) The methodology for estimation of poverty has been reviewed from time to time. The Planning Commission constituted an Expert Group in December, 2005 under the chairmanship of Prof. Suresh D Tendulkar to review the methodology for estimation of poverty. The Expert Group submitted its report in December 2009. The recommendations of the Expert Group are being examined by the Planning Commission.

(c) and (d) The existing methodology based on the recommendations of the Expert Group on 'Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor' (Lakdawala Committee), focused on the purchasing power needed to meet the specific calorie intake (per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 Kcal in rural areas and 2100 Kcal in urban areas) with some margin for non-food consumption needs also. The new methodology proposed by Tendulkar Committee recommends to move away from calorie norm, adopting the Mixed Reference Period (MRP) equivalent of urban Poverty Line Basket (PLB) corresponding to 25.7% urban headcount ratio as the new reference for the PLB without discriminating between rural and urban areas. In addition, the recommended poverty lines take into account the adequacy of actual private expenditure per capita near the poverty lines on food, education and health by comparing these with the normative expenditures consistent with nutritional, educational and health outcomes.

New parameters for various ministries

384. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has introduced new parameters for various Ministries to evaluate their performance every 3 months;
- (b) the details of these new parameters;
- (c) whether it is a fact that government has introduced a system as prevalent in private sector;
- (d) if so, to what extent will such evaluation have any relevance; and