

Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) for urban areas. The latest poverty estimates, based on 61st Round NSSO Data, have been released for the year 2004-05 wherein the poverty line adopted at all-India level is Rs. 356.30 per capita consumption per month at 2004-05 prices for rural areas and Rs. 538.60 per capita consumption per month for urban areas.

Poverty being a multi dimensional issue, various experts in the field express views based on their perceptions on the subject. The Planning Commission reviews the methodology for estimation of poverty from time to time. Recently, the Expert Group headed by Prof Suresh D. Tendulkar has looked into the related issues and submitted its report. The Tendulkar Committee has also recommended that the estimates of poverty may continue to be based on private household consumer expenditure collected by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). The recommendations of the Tendulkar Committee have been accepted by the Planning Commission. The consumption expenditure is preferred to income as criteria to estimate poverty because it reflects people's actual level of living more accurately whereas income data are more concerned with people's potential level of living. Secondly, expenditure data are considered more reliable than the income data.

Revised estimates of BPL families

493. SHRI R.C.SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has asked the Planning Commission to prepare a revised estimates of families living below poverty line for effective implementation of PDS and other welfare schemes within a month;
- (b) whether the revised estimates have been prepared by the Commission; and
- (c) if so, the details of revised estimates, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY):
(a) to (c) The Central Government is committed to effective implementation of Public Distribution System (PDS) and other welfare schemes for BPL families. For this purpose, consultations with the Departments concerned are an ongoing process.

As the identification of BPL families is a prerequisite for the above, the Ministry of Rural Development has already initiated the efforts in this regard in respect of rural areas; a pilot survey to fine tune the methodology for identification of the rural poor is being carried out by them. In respect of the urban poor, the Planning Commission has recently constituted an expert group to evolve a suitable methodology for identification of the BPL families.