

Norms for identification of poor

†3937. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the norms stipulated for identification of poor in the country a person living on subsistence expenditure of Rs. 15 in rural areas and Rs. 20 in urban areas per day, will be deemed poor;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether Government considers the person spending more than Rs. 15 and Rs. 20 per day as non-poor or in the rich category; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and the number and denomination of categories under which Government has classified remaining the population from economic point of view?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (d) While the Planning Commission estimates poverty on the basis of Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE) as the criterion, the identification of the poor in rural and urban areas is done through BPL census by the Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation respectively. As per Tendulkar Committee methodology, the poverty line for urban areas is estimated at a consumption expenditure of Rs. 578.80 per capita per month, and for rural areas at Rs. 446.68 per capita per month at 2004-05 prices. On daily basis this amounts to per capita consumption of Rs. 15 per day for rural areas and Rs. 20 per day for urban areas at 2004-05 prices.

Planning Commission estimates poverty lines and poverty ratio for the States as well as the country for the years for which data is available from Large Sample Surveys on Household Consumer Expenditure carried out by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). These surveys are conducted quinquennially. After 2004-05, this survey has been conducted in 2009-10. The Planning Commission is in the process of estimating the revised poverty line taking into account changes in the price level as per the Tendulkar Methodology on the basis of 2009-10 survey data on Household Consumer Expenditure, which are now available. The use of poverty line classifies the population into two categories, namely Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.