

New tools for poverty reductions

1788. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the incidence of decline of urban poverty in the Eleventh Plan has accelerated with GDP growth;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether there is a need to develop new poverty reduction tools and approaches to attack the multi-dimensional issues of urban poverty; and
- (d) if so, the measures Government intend to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (d) The Planning Commission is the nodal agency for estimation of poverty at the national and state level. The methodology for estimation of poverty is reviewed by the Planning Commission from time-to-time. Accordingly, the Planning Commission constituted an Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Prof. Suresh D. Tendulkar in December, 2005. The Tendulkar Committee submitted its report in December, 2009 and poverty lines recommended by the Tendulkar Committee for 2004-05 have been accepted by the Planning Commission. Accordingly, the national Poverty line at 2004-05 prices is per capita per month expenditure of Rs.446.68 in the rural areas and Rs.578.80 in urban areas. As per the latest estimates available, the urban poverty has declined from 31.8% in 1993-94 to 25.7 in 2004-05.

The Planning Commission estimates poverty lines and poverty ratios for the years for which Large Sample Surveys on Household Consumer Expenditure have been conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO). These surveys are conducted quinquennially. After 2004-05, this survey has been conducted in 2009-10 the results of which are now available. A final view on the methodology for measuring poverty in future can be taken *inter-alia* on the basis of 2009-10 NSSO survey and by taking into consideration all relevant indicia of poverty as identified by experts. A holistic view as to the approach to poverty measurement will be taken and if considered necessary, the issue will be revisited to arrive at the most credible methodology for poverty estimation. A Committee of experts will be set up to decide a comprehensive criterion for identifying the BPL families in consultation with states and other stakeholders.

Generally higher Gross Domestic product (GDP) accompanied by various anti-poverty programmes lead to increase in income and reduction in poverty. The rate of growth in GDP during the first four years of Eleventh Five Year Plan is 9.3% in 2007-08, 6.8% in 2008-09, 8.0% in 2009-10 and 8.5 % in 2010-11 resulting in an annual average growth rate of 8.2% during this period. The Government is implementing a number of poverty alleviation programmes such as Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewable Mission (JNNURM), Swarna Jyanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), etc. which aim at reducing the incidence of urban poverty in the country. The Eleventh and Twelfth Plan focus on inclusive growth is also aimed at poverty reduction throughout the country.

Differences in Central and State lists of BPL

1789. PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any differences between the State Government of Kerala and the Union Government with regard to inclusion of persons in the BPL list in Kerala;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) The State Government of Kerala has not yet finalised the list of BPL families. Therefore, it is not possible to indicate whether there is any difference between the State Government of Kerala and the Union Government with regard to inclusion of persons in the BPL list in Kerala.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) Does not arise.
- (d) Does not arise.

Registered NGOs

†1790. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.