

Plan for poverty alleviation

2996. SHRI MANISHANKAR AIYAR: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rate of poverty alleviation has been raised to an average of 1.4 per cent in the last five years compared to 0.8 per cent in the previous five years;

(b) the Twelfth Five Year Plan target for poverty alleviation; and

(c) the time period that would be required at current and estimated rates for poverty alleviation to spring India out of the poverty trap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) The Planning Commission has recently computed estimates of poverty for the year 2009-10 based on the data of large scale survey on household consumer expenditure collected by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) in its 66th round conducted during 2009-10 following the extant Tendulkar methodology. Based on the said methodology the Planning Commission has released the estimates through a Press Note issued on 19th March 2012. As indicated in the Press Note, the poverty ratio in the country has come down from 37.2% in 2004-05 to 29.8% in 2009-10. The comparable estimate of poverty ratio for 1993-94 is 45.3%. This implies that there is a reduction of about 1.5 percentage points between 2004-05 and 2009-10 and reduction of 0.7 percentage points per annum between 1993-94 and 2004-05.

(b) and (c) The Twelfth Five Year Plan is being finalized and no target is fixed as yet. However, the UNDP's millennium development goal relating to poverty is to "Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the Percentage of Population below the National Poverty Line". This implies that India has to reduce poverty ratio from about 47.5 percent in 1990 to about 23.75 percent by 2015. In 2009-10, the poverty has come down to 29.8%. With continued growth in GDP and a more rapid growth in agriculture, the poverty Head Count Ratio is expected to be close to the MDG target by 2015.

New panel to estimate poverty

2997. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for abandoning Tendulkar Committee's estimation method relating to poverty data;