

New study by government to fix poverty line

†4568. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a new study conducted by Government to fix the poverty line, the average daily requirement of an individual living in urban areas is Rs. 66.10 per day and that of an individual living in rural areas is Rs. 35.10 per day;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government has accepted these figures; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the huge difference between the actual figures and the above figures in the urban and rural areas is still a major issue of criticism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (c) The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) conducts nationwide household consumer expenditure survey at regular intervals as part of its “rounds”, each round normally of a year’s duration. The household Consumer Expenditure Survey (CES) is generally covered as one of the main subjects of the NSS survey at quinquennial intervals. The 66th Round Survey conducted during 2009-10 is a survey of this quinquennial series. The NSS consumer expenditure survey aims at generating estimates of household monthly per capita consumer expenditure (MPCE) and its distribution separately for the rural and urban sectors of the country, for States and Union Territories.

From the 66th round survey, three estimates of average and distribution of MPCE have been obtained depending upon the reference period for which the data is collected for different items. These three MPCE measures are as follows:

- (i) **Uniform Reference Period MPCE (or MPCEURP):** This is the measure of MPCE obtained by the NSS consumer expenditure survey (CES) when household consumer expenditure on each item is recorded for a reference period of “last 30 days” (preceding the date of survey).
- (ii) **Mixed Reference Period MPCE (or MPCEMRP):** This is the measure of MPCE obtained by the CES when household consumer expenditure on items of clothing and bedding, footwear, education, institutional medical care, and durable goods is recorded for a reference period of “last 365 days”, and expenditure on all other items is recorded with a reference period of “last 30 days”.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (iii) **Modified Mixed Reference Period MPCE (or MPCEMMRP):** This is the measure of MPCE obtained by the CES when household consumer expenditure on edible oil, egg, fish and meat, vegetables, fruits, spices, beverages, refreshments, processed food, pan, tobacco and intoxicants is recorded for a reference period of “last 7 days”, and for all other items, the reference periods used are the same as in case of Mixed Reference Period MPCE (MPCEMRP).

The Planning Commission uses the data generated by NSS Consumer Expenditure surveys for estimation of poverty lines and poverty ratios. As recommended by Tendulkar Committee, the poverty estimates are based on MPCEMRP.

As per the report of 66th round, the average Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE) with Mixed Modified Reference Period (MMRP) is Rs. 1054/- in rural areas and Rs. 1984/- in urban areas. This amounts to an average per capita expenditure of Rs. 35.10 per day in rural areas and Rs. 66.10 in urban areas. This is the average consumption expenditure of the population and is not the same as that of poverty line as defined by the Planning Commission. On the basis of 66th round data of household consumer expenditure survey of NSSO for 2009-10, the poverty line based on Tendulkar methodology works out to be monthly per capita consumption expenditure of Rs. 673 in rural areas and Rs. 860 in urban areas.

The methodology for estimation of poverty followed by the Planning Commission has been based on the recommendations made by the experts in the field from time to time. Government has since decided to set up a Technical Group to revisit the methodology for estimation of poverty and identification of poortaking into account multiple dimensions and indicators of poverty so that the poor and deprived households can obtain the benefit of different government programmes and schemes. The composition of the Technical Group and its terms of reference are being finalized.

134th position of India in UN Development Report

4569. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that India is stagnating at the 134th position in the UN Development Report;
- (b) if so, how far the situation has improved with the increase in financial allocation to Rs. 1,85,000 crore from Rs. 7608 crore in 1995 in social sector; and
- (c) whether Government is thinking of launching a dedicated programme aiming at improving socio-economic conditions especially in rural area, so that India