

Tendulkar Committee which submitted its report in November 2009 has computed the poverty lines at all India level as MPCE of Rs. 447 for rural areas and Rs. 579 for urban areas in 2004-05.

The large sample surveys on Household Consumer Expenditure are carried out by the NSSO every 5 years. After 2004-05, this survey has been conducted in 2009-10. The Planning Commission has updated the poverty lines for the year 2009-10 as per the recommendations of the Tendulkar Committee using NSS 66th round (2009-10) data of Household Consumer Expenditure Survey and released poverty estimates for 2009-10 on 19th March 2012. According to this Press Note poverty line at all India level is estimated as MPCE of Rs. 673 for rural areas and Rs. 860 for urban areas in 2009-10.

(d) to (g) 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.

Policy for Determining Poverty Line

2384. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1785 given in Rajya Sabha on 25 November, 2010 and state :

(a) whether in a lieu of a single poverty line that categorises all Indians as BPL or APL, Government would consider categorising the deprived sections of the population as 'extremely poor', 'poor', 'marginally poor', and 'vulnerable', as was done in the August 2007 report of the Arjun Sengupta Committee on Unorganised Enterprises; and

(b) whether Government would consider substituting the singular poverty line by multi-dimensional poverty indices, such as the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHDI) now being used by the UNDP to construct the UN HDI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Government has decided to set up a Technical Group to revisit the methodology for estimation of poverty and identification of poor, which is expected to take a holistic view in the matter.