

**Per day expenditure of rural population**

†1329. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether according to the National Sample Survey Organization, rural population of the country is compelled to live on less than Rupees 35 per day;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the status of schemes being run by Government for upliftment of the poor; and
- (d) the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) 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 and for States and Union Territories.

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. This amounts to an average per capita expenditure of Rs. 35.10 per day for the rural population.

(c) and (d) The Government has taken various measures for upliftment of the poor and improve the quality of life of the people in the country through direct intervention by implementing specific poverty reduction and mitigation programmes such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Swarnjayanti Gram SwarozgarYojana (SGSY), Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS), Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, Rajiv Gandhi

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

Drinking Water Mission, Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) and Total Sanitation Campaign etc. All other policy initiatives of the government which have led to higher GDP growth in the country have individually and collectively contributed to raising the living standards of people over time and to the decline of absolute poverty and destitution. All these schemes are implemented throughout the country, covering all States and UTs and the responsibility of implementation lies with the State Governments and the Administrative Ministry concerned at Centre.

#### **Norms to access BPL population**

†1330. SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) norms to assess people living below poverty line in the country;
- (b) whether Government considers such norms appropriate even in present conditions;
- (c) if so, the basis thereof; and
- (d) whether the minimum expenditure required to fulfill the basic needs of each person and each family would be considered by Government as a basis for setting the norms for Below Poverty Line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (d) The Planning Commission estimates the percentage and number of people living below poverty line on the basis of large sample survey data of National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) household consumer expenditure. The survey tabulates the expenditure of households numbering about one lakh households. Since the households have different number of members, the NSSO for purpose of comparison divides the household expenditure by the number of members to arrive at per capita consumption expenditure per month which is called MPCE. The poverty line has been conventionally expressed in terms of this MPCE. The methodology for estimation of poverty has been reviewed by the Planning Commission from time to time. An Expert Group was constituted under the chairmanship of Prof. Suresh D. Tendulkar in 2005 to review the methodology for estimation of poverty. The Tendulkar Committee recommended MPCE of Rs. 447 for rural areas and Rs. 579 for urban areas as the poverty line at 2004-05 prices, which was accepted by the Planning commission. The Tendulkar Committee, which submitted its Report in 2009, has incorporated adequacy of expenditure from the normative and nutritional viewpoint. It stated:

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