

(c) and (d) As per terms of reference, the Expert Group set up under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. Rangarajan would review the methodology for measurement of poverty.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. The Planning Commission accepted the poverty lines and poverty ratios estimated by Tendulkar Committee for 1993-94 and 2004-05 and followed there commended methodology for estimation of poverty for 2009-10, and in order to ensure the contemporary relevance of the poverty line and to ensure that suitable weightage is given to different parameters in computing the poverty line consistent with the ground realities, the Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Dr. Rangarajan has been given comprehensive terms of reference for computation of poverty estimates.

Increase in current account deficit

*180. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Current Account Deficit (CAD) increased to four per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2011-12 (upto December, 2011) as compared to 3.3 per cent during the same period of 2010-11; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the deficit?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The Current Account Deficit (CAD) increased to 4.1 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2011-12 (upto December, 2011) as compared to 3.3 per cent during the corresponding period of 2010-11. The CAD was 4.2 per cent of GDP for full fiscal 2011-12 *vis-a-vis* 2.7 per cent in 2010-11.

The increase in CAD in 2011-12 was due to widening of trade deficit on account of moderation in exports and relatively inelastic imports of petroleum, oil and lubricant (POL) and gold and silver in the wake of rising international prices.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Function of Cabinet Secretary/Secretariat

1241. SHRI RANBIR SINGH PARJAPATI:

PROF. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: