

are the most dangerous common enemy of the country but are not getting the attention, that it deserves; and

(b) the details of measures Government proposes to take to banish poverty, unemployment, literacy and infant mortality from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Poverty, unemployment, illiteracy and infant mortality are challenges before the country. These are being addressed through multipronged strategies and programmes of different Ministries and Departments. Centrally Sponsored Schemes have been rationalized into 28 umbrella schemes. 6 Core of the Core Schemes have legislative backing and serve vulnerable sections of society. Besides this, 20 Core schemes and 2 optional schemes address the challenges of poverty, unemployment, illiteracy and provision of health services and nutrition in a schematic and holistic manner.

Definition of poverty

†1991. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has been unable to define poverty till date;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the present definition of poverty according to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) The official poverty estimates are based on the recommendations made by the experts in the field from time to time. The present poverty estimates are based on the methodology recommended by the Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Prof. Suresh D. Tendulkar in 2009. For the year 2011-12, the erstwhile Planning Commission, using the poverty line recommended by the Tendulkar Committee for 2004-05 and updating it to 2011-12 had estimated the poverty and released through a Press Note issued on 22nd July 2013. The poverty line has been defined on the basis of Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure (MPCE) as the criterion. For the year 2011-12, the poverty line at all India level was estimated as MPCE of ₹ 816 for rural areas and ₹ 1000 for urban areas. The poverty line vary from State to State because of price differentials.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.