

**Separate time zone for North Eastern States**

599. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Arunachal Pradesh has recently pleaded the Central Government for a separate time zone for the entire North-eastern region, to increase productivity and reduce power consumption;

(b) whether Russia follows eleven different time zones and the USA five time zones whereas India geographically requires at least two different time zones to optimize work efficiency and save on energy consumption; and

(c) whether the Planning Commission took up the cudgel on behalf of the North Eastern States and had argued in favour of two different time zones for India in 2006?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Russia follows eleven different time zones and USA legally has nine different time zones. India has only one time zone.

(c) No, Sir. However, the Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Kirit S. Parikh, the then Member of Planning Commission, in its report on Integrated Energy Policy submitted in August, 2006 suggested that 'saving day light by introducing two time zones in the country can save a lot of energy'.

**New norms to identify people Below Poverty Line**

†600. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to review and ascertain the persons living below poverty line;

(b) if so, whether the norms earlier prescribed are not found to be effective at present; and

(c) if so, by when the new norms would be prescribed and people would be benefited?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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. In the past, erstwhile Planning Commission had constituted Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. Y K. Alagh in 1977, Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Prof. D.T Lakdawala in 1989, Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Prof Suresh Tendulkar in 2005 and Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. Rangarajan in 2012. At present, the official norms for estimation of poverty is based on the methodology recommended by the Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Prof. Suresh D. Tendulkar.

**National Sample Survey on Poverty Ratio**

601. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:  
SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:  
SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any latest National Sample Survey about the poverty ratio of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the poverty ratio in the country has increased, since the last three years; and
- (d) if so, the action taken by Government to remove the poverty problems of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) The official poverty estimates are based on data of Large Sample Surveys on Household Consumer Expenditure carried out by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. The latest data of Large Sample Survey on Household Consumer Expenditure has been collected by NSSO in its 68th round conducted in 2011-12. The poverty estimates for 2011-12 have been computed following the extant Tendulkar methodology and these have been released through a Press Note issued on 22nd July, 2013. The State/UT-wise poverty ratio for 2011-12 is given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) NSSO has not conducted any Large Sample Surveys on Household Consumer Expenditure after 2011-12. Hence, the information on poverty ratio for last three years is not available.