

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PLANNING

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2379**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.12.2024

**TENDULKAR COMMITTEE AND MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX**

2379 # SMT. SUNETRA AJIT PAWAR:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the estimate made by the Tendulkar Committee was more than a decade old and the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MDPI) was not exactly the poverty line;
- (b) if so, the facts in this regard;
- (c) whether there is still no official poverty line (definition) in the country beyond the Tendulkar Committee;
- (d) if so, whether the country needs a new poverty line to estimate the extent of deprivation in the country; and
- (e) if so, the response of Government thereto and the steps taken in this regard?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION; MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE

(RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

- (a) to (e) The erstwhile Planning Commission Constituted Expert Committees from time to time to recommend the methodology for estimation of poverty, including a Task Force in 1977 (under the chairmanship of Dr. Y.K. Alagh), Expert Group in 1989 (under the chairmanship of Prof. D.T. Lakdawala) and an Expert Group in 2005 (under the chairmanship of Prof. Suresh D. Tendulkar). Based on recommendations of the Tendulkar Committee, the erstwhile Planning Commission released the poverty estimates for 2011-12 through a Press Note issued on 22nd July 2013.

NITI Aayog, as the Nodal Agency for Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), has been responsible for constructing National MPI for monitoring the performance of States and Union Territories in addressing multidimensional poverty. In order to institutionalize this, NITI Aayog constituted an inter-ministerial Multidimensional Poverty Index Coordination Committee (MPICC) in 2020. The Committee comprises representatives from the NITI Aayog, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Ministry of Power, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Department of Rural Development, Department of Food and Public Distribution, Department of School Education and Literacy, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, and Department of Financial Services along with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI).

In 2021, the Government has developed a comprehensive National MPI index in 2021 to measure poverty by capturing overlapping deprivations in dimensions such as health, education and standard of living, covering 12 indicators namely, nutrition, child and adolescent mortality, maternal health, years of schooling, school attendance, cooking fuel, sanitation, drinking water, electricity, housing, bank accounts and assets. It measures both the share of people in poverty and the degree to which they are deprived. The MPI, based on the Alkire-Foster (AF) methodology, is an internationally recognized measure of poverty, closely aligned with the global methodology. The second edition of the Index was released in July, 2023

As per the National MPI Report, 2023 released by NITI Aayog, the proportion of population in multidimensional poverty declined from 24.85% to 14.96% between 2015-16 and 2019-21, indicating that about 135.5 million persons have escaped poverty during the period.

The details of the Report are in public domain and can be accessed at <https://www.niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2023-08/India-National-Multidimensional-Poverty-Index-2023.pdf>

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