

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2376
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2003
PER CAPITA INCOME FOR DETERMINATION OF POVERTY LINE
PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of per capita income fixed for each State/Union Territory for determination of poverty line;
- (b) the factors taken into consideration in arriving at the figure;
- (c) whether the Government propose to enhance the limit to realistic levels to enable the deserving people to avail of the benefit of various schemes meant for the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families;
- (d) if so, the broad features thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI S. B. MOOKHERJEE)

(a) & (b): The Planning Commission has adopted per capita consumption expenditure as the criterion to determine the persons living below the poverty line. The per capita consumption has been fixed at Rs 49.09 per month in rural areas and Rs. 56.64 per month in urban areas at 1973-74 prices at national level corresponding to a basket of goods and services anchored on a norm of per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 kcal in rural areas and 2100 kcal in urban areas. The state-specific poverty lines are derived from the national level poverty lines, using state-specific price indices and inter-state price differentials. The state specific poverty lines, in rural and urban areas separately, for the year 1999-2000 are given in Annexure I.

(c) to (e): The criteria for identification of people living below poverty line (BPL) for the purpose of providing assistance under poverty alleviation programmes has been revised under the Tenth Five Year Plan. In BPL Census 2002, poverty line does not appear directly. It is now proposed to adopt a normative approach for identification of the rural poor by introducing a 'Score Based Ranking' based on relative deprivations revealed by certain socio-economic indicators in contrast to the 'income' and 'expenditure' approach adopted in the BPL Census, 1992 and 1997 respectively.

ANNEXURE - I

State-Specific Poverty Lines in 1999-2000 (Rs. per capita per month)

No. State Rural Urban

1	Andhra Pradesh	262.94	457.40
2	Assam	365.43	343.99
3	Bihar	333.07	379.78
4	Gujarat	318.94	474.41
5	Haryana	362.81	420.20
6	Himachal Pradesh	367.45	420.20
7	Karnataka	309.59	511.44
8	Kerala	374.79	477.06
9	Madhya Pradesh	311.34	481.65
10	Maharashtra	318.63	539.71
11	Orissa	323.92	473.12
12	Punjab	362.68	388.15
13	Rajasthan	344.03	465.92
14	Tamil Nadu	307.64	475.60
15	Uttar Pradesh	336.88	416.29
16	West Bengal	350.17	409.22
17	Delhi	362.68	505.45

All India# 327.56 454.11

The poverty line(implicit) at all-India level is worked out from the expenditure class-wise distribution of persons and the poverty ratio at all-India level. The poverty ratio at all-India level is obtained as the weighted average of the state-wise poverty ratio.