

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2429
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2003
INCREASE IN RURAL POVERTY
ALE NARENDRA

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether poverty has increased in rural areas, particularly in backward and tribal areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard recently;
- (d) if so, the findings thereof, State-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to eliminate poverty in these areas?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE 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) to (d): The Planning Commission estimates poverty at national and state level from the large sample surveys on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years. The latest such survey has been conducted in 1999-2000 (NSS 55th Round).

The separate estimates for backward and tribal areas are not available. However, incidence of poverty for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe population in rural areas is available. On the basis of data of latest two rounds of NSSO, it has been estimated that the poverty ratio has declined by 11.86 percentage points for Scheduled castes and 6.08 for Scheduled Tribes and 10.18 percentage points for the all population in rural areas of the country during the period 1993-94 to 1999-2000. Poverty ratio has declined during this period in all major states except for SCs/STs population in Orissa. The state wise estimates of poverty for SCs/STs and for all population in rural areas for the years 1993-94 and 1999-2000 are given in Annexure I.

(e): Government has been implementing number of poverty alleviation programmes through out the country for the people living below poverty line. Within the below poverty line population special safeguards have been provided reserving benefits for SCs/STs. Besides this, Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY) proposed in the Tenth Five Year Plan aims at focussed development programmes for backward areas, primarily to fill critical gaps, which would help reduce imbalances, speed up development and help these areas to overcome poverty.

ANNEXURE - I

Table: Reduction in % of people living below Poverty Line from 1993-94 to 1999-2000- Rural Areas

Scheduled Castes Scheduled Tribes All Population

S.No.	States	Poverty Ratio Reduc-		Poverty Ratio Reduc-		Poverty Ratio Reduc-	
		1993-94	99-2000	1993-94	99-2000	1993-94	99-2000
		in Pov.	in Pov.	in Pov.	in Pov.	in Pov.	in Pov.
		ratio	ratio	ratio	ratio	ratio	ratio

1	Andhra Pradesh	26.02	16.49	9.53	25.66	23.82	1.84	15.92	11.05	4.87
2	Assam	45.38	44.00	1.38	41.44	38.73	2.71	45.01	40.04	4.97
3	Bihar	70.66	59.81	10.85	69.75	59.68	10.07	58.21	44.30	13.91
4	Gujarat	32.26	17.77	14.49	31.20	29.11	2.09	22.18	13.17	9.01
5	Haryana	46.56	19.03	27.53	41.55	28.02	8.27	19.75		
6	Himachal Pr.	36.89	13.15	23.74	63.94	5.73	58.21	30.34	7.94	22.40
7	Karnataka	46.36	26.22	20.14	37.33	25.49	11.84	29.88	17.38	12.50
8	Kerala	36.43	14.64	21.79	37.34	24.20	13.14	25.76	9.38	16.38
9	Madhya Pradesh	45.83	41.29	4.54	56.69	56.26	0.43	40.64	37.06	3.58
10	Maharashtra	51.64	33.27	18.37	50.38	43.56	6.82	37.93	23.72	14.21
11	Orissa	48.95	51.83	-2.88	71.26	73.93	-2.67	49.72	48.01	1.71

12 Punjab	22.08	12.39	9.69	27.00	17.99	9.01	11.95	6.35	5.60
13 Rajasthan	38.38	19.62	18.76	46.23	25.27	20.96	26.46	13.74	12.72
14 Tamil Nadu	44.05	32.59	11.46	44.37	43.20	1.17	32.48	20.55	11.93
15 Uttar Pradesh	58.99	43.65	15.34	37.11	34.06	3.05	42.28	31.22	11.06
16 West Bengal	45.29	35.10	10.19	61.95	50.02	11.93	40.80	31.85	8.95

All India 48.11 36.25 11.86 51.94 45.86 6.08 37.27 27.09 10.18

N.B.:

1. The estimates are based on the methodology outlined in the Report of The Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor.
2. The poverty line for all population is used for SC`s an ST`s.
3. All India poverty ratio is worked out from the NSS distribution of persons and (implicit) all-India poverty line.