

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3707
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2000
ASSESSMENT OF POOR PERSONS
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Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the expert team set up to assess the number and ratio of the poor people in the country has submitted its report;
- (b) if so, the main recommendations thereof; (
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (d) if not, the reasons for delay in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS
PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE)

(a): The Planning Commission had constituted the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor in September, 1989 in order to look into the methodology of estimation of poverty and to redefine the poverty line, if necessary. The Expert Group submitted its report to the Planning Commission in July, 1993;

(b): The Expert Group recommended the following:

(i) The poverty line recommended by the Task Force on projection of minimum needs and effective consumption demand, namely a monthly per capita total expenditure of Rs.49.09 (rural) and Rs.56.64 (urban) rounded respectively to Rs.49 and Rs.57 at all India level at 1973-74 prices be adopted as the base line.

(ii) Disaggregation of the National level poverty line into state-specific poverty lines using state-specific price indices and index of inter-state price differential;

(iii) Updation of state-specific poverty lines by especially constructed price index for use in latter years;

(iv) Using the state-specific poverty lines as estimated in

(ii) above, estimation of state-specific poverty ratios from large sample survey data on consumption expenditure distribution obtained from the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), without any adjustment to CSO level of consumption as was being done in the earlier Task Force method.

(c): A Full Planning Commission meeting under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister accepted its recommendations with minor modifications in March, 1997.

(d): Does not arise.