

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2110  
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2006  
BPL NORMS FOR INDIAN FARMERS .  
Thummar Shri Virjibhai

**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) Whether the average family expense of the Indian farmers is just above the amount fixed by the Government for poverty line;
- (b) If so, whether the Government has been in the process of hiding the meagacity of poor people of India by taking excuse of BPL for a quite long time;
- (c) If so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) The corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL)

(a) to (d): The Planning Commission had defined poverty in terms of the per capita monthly expenditure corresponding to per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 in rural areas and 2100 in urban area. The incidence of poverty at national and State level is estimated by the Planning Commission from the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years according to the Expert Group Methodology

(Lakdawala Committee on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor). The rural poverty line, which was estimated at national level during 1999-2000 is Rs.327.56. However, the Situation Assessment Survey of Farmers during 2003 was taken up by NSSO, in the rural areas, as part of the NSS 59th Round, on the request of the Union Ministry of Agriculture. According to the results of that Survey, the average monthly per capita expenditure of farmers at National level is Rs.502.83 during 2003. If this average monthly per capita expenditure of Rs.502.83 is deflated at 1999-2000 prices it works out to be Rs.487.97 which is about 49% higher than the poverty line.