

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:104  
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2007  
POVERTY ALLEVIATION  
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**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) the details of people living below poverty line in the country state-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has fixed any target for bringing these people above the poverty line during the last two years; and
- (c) if so, the extent to which the target has been achieved during the last two years?

**Answer**

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

(a) The estimation of incidence of poverty at National and State level is done by the Planning Commission. On the basis of the latest sample survey data on household consumer expenditure (61st Round of NSS), covering the period July, 2004 to June, 2005 (Report No.508 (61/1.0/1), two different consumption distributions for the year 2004-05 have been obtained. The first one from the consumption data collected using 30-day recall period (also known as reference period) for all the items. The other distribution is obtained from the consumer expenditure data collected using 365-day recall period for five infrequently purchased non-food items, namely, clothing, footwear, durable goods, education and institutional medical expenses and 30-day recall period for remaining items. These two consumption distributions have been termed as Uniform Recall Period (URP) consumption distribution and Mixed Recall Period (MRP) consumption distribution respectively. The Planning Commission, using the Expert Group methodology has estimated poverty in 2004-05 using both the distributions. The percentage and number of poor in 2004-05 estimated from URP consumption distribution of NSS 61st Round of consumer expenditure data are comparable with the poverty estimates of 1993-94. The percentage and number of poor in 2004-05 estimated from MRP consumption distribution of NSS 61st Round of consumer expenditure data are roughly (but not strictly) comparable with the poverty estimates of 1999-2000. The details of people living below poverty line in the country state-wise as per URP and MRP estimates are given at Annexure-I and II respectively.

(b) During the last two years, the Government has not fixed any target for bringing the people above the poverty line. However, the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07) had set a target for reduction of poverty by 5 percentage points by 2007. The Approach Paper to the 11th Plan has mentioned reduction of the headcount ratio of consumption poverty by 10 percentage points.

(c) The Planning Commission estimates poverty at national and state level from the large sample survey of consumer expenditure conducted by the NSSO at an interval of approximately five years. The comparable poverty estimates for the two latest years are available for (a) 1993-94 and 2004-05 (URP), (b) 1999-2000 and 2004-05 (MRP). As such the estimates for the last two years are not available.