

Uncorrected/ Not for Publication-19.08.2010

Q. NO. 361

श्री राशिद अल्वी : सर, सरकार ने जो जवाब दिया है और उसमें वर्ल्ड बैंक की जो पॉवर्टी लाइन है, according to the poverty line of the World Bank, it is 1.25 dollars per day, which comes to near about Rs. 60 per day. उसके मुताबिक बिलो पावर्टी लाइन लोगों की तादाद 41.6 परसेंट है। जो प्लानिंग कमीशन की पॉवर्टी लाइन है वह 356.30 मंथली है which comes to near about Rs. 12 per day. वर्ल्ड बैंक 60 रुपए कह रहा है, हम 12 रुपए कह रहे हैं, उनके मुताबिक 41 परसेंट बिलो पावर्टी लाइन है, हमारे मुताबिक 37.2 परसेंट बिलो पावर्टी लाइन है। What is the truth?

श्री सभापति : आपका सवाल क्या है?

श्री राशिद अल्वी : सर, मेरा क्वेश्चन यह है कि सरकार क्या मानती है कि कितने लोग बिलो पावर्टी लाइन हैं?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Hon. Chairman, Sir, for having some official estimation of the number of people living below the poverty line, first of all, a Task Force was constituted by the Planning Commission, and, thereafter, an Expert Group is looking into it. The first committee that went into this issue was the Lakdawala Committee.

The hon. Member raised the issue of the estimates made by the World Bank. Sir, the World Bank estimate is made on the basis of the income criteria. But as far as our country is concerned, we have been following the consumption-expenditure method. The consumption-expenditure method is based on the method of calorie-intake of the rural population and also the urban population. As per the estimates, the calorie intake of rural population is 2400 calories and in case of urban population, it is 2100 calories. Sir, initially, when the Lakdawala

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Committee gave its findings on the basis of the estimates that have been made on poverty, in the urban areas, it was 25.7 per cent and in the rural areas, it was 28.3 per cent. However, the hon. Member has mentioned that in the rural areas, it is 356.30, and, urban areas it is 538.60. Sir, there was a lot of dispute on that. When this estimation of 25.7 per cent people living below the poverty line was made, there was a lot of dispute on that. Therefore, the Planning Commission appointed the Tendulkar Committee. The Tendulkar Committee went into it and also the method adopted by the Lakdawala Committee was little modified.

(Contd. by 1b/SKC)

1b/11.05/skc-gs

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (contd.): The criteria for consumption in urban areas has been applied to rural areas as well and, therefore, there has been a little escalation. In the rural population it has gone up to 41.8 per cent while in the urban population it is 25.7 per cent. The total expenditure on per capita consumption in rural areas is Rs.446.68 and in urban areas it is Rs.578.80. The Planning Commission, in its mid-term appraisal, has accepted the proposal of the Tendulkar Committee and, the matter stands as it is. Several committees have been constituted, such as the Arjunsen Gupta Committee, the Saxena Committee, and others; there are the World Bank estimates and UNDP reports too. As for our official estimates, we go by the consumption expenditure method. It is very accurate. Not only is it accurate, it also projects exactly the standard of living of the people.

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श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना : सर, हर राज्य का अपना लिविंग स्टैंडर्ड है, हर राज्य अपने जीअग्रेफिकली हिसाब से गरीब-अमीर है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार ऐसा कोई कानून बना सकती है कि हर राज्य का जो बीपीएल स्टैंडर्ड है, उस हिसाब से उसको फैसिलिटी दी जाए ? कहीं कम मिल रही है, कहीं ज्यादा मिल रही है। पंजाब में ऐसे कई गांव हैं जहां पर एक भी आदमी बीपीएल के पैरामीटर में नहीं आता है, लेकिन वह इतना गरीब है कि उसके पास खाने को रोटी भी नहीं है। क्या राज्य सरकारों को इन्चाल्व करके ऐसी कोई योजना सरकार बना सकती है ?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, State-specific estimation of poverty line has been done in the urban and rural areas. I would like to submit that the estimation has been done on the basis of the 61st report of the NSSO of 2004-05. We shall have the next report of the NSSO in 2011. Currently, survey is being conducted. Therefore, it would be updated on the basis of various findings and the consumption expenditure, which has been increasing in our country.

Sir, I would like to submit that after 2004-05, when the UPA Government came to power, a lot of welfare schemes have been implemented, such as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Bharat Nirman and other schemes like the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan and National Rural Health Mission, which target the rural population. The standard of living of the people has been increasing. An assessment is being made and we would know about it only in 2011.

श्री रामविलास पासवान : सर, जो अलग-अलग समितियां हैं, उन्होंने अलग-अलग रिपोर्ट दी हैं। जो बिलो पावर्टी लाइन है, उसकी व्याख्या कहीं नहीं है, उसकी डेफिनेशन कहीं नहीं है,

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यह रुपये के आधार पर, आंकड़े के आधार पर किया गया है। मेरा कहना है कि जो आमदनी का मापदंड है, वह तीसरा रहना चाहिए, यहां पर आमदनी का मापदंड सबसे पहला है। यह विदेश के लिए ठीक है, लेकिन अपने देश के लिए ठीक नहीं है। मैं सरकार से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार देश के देहाती इलाकों में जितने भूमिहीन हैं, लैंडलेस लेबरर्स हैं और जो शहर में रहने वाले केजुअल लेबरर्स हैं, उनको बिलो पावर्टी लाइन के अंतर्गत मानकर एक सिम्पल मापदंड तय करेगी ?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, there are two kinds of surveys. One is done by the Rural development Ministry. The Rural Development Ministry goes into the question of adopting the methodology for identifying the BPL families.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Who constitute the BPL families?

श्री वी. नारायणसामी : अभी बोल रहा हूँ।

श्री रामविलास पासवान : क्या मतलब है बीपीएल फैमिली का ?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, as far as BPL families are concerned, we can only estimate the poverty line. The hon. Member has talked about landless labourers, identification of BPL families, etc. I would like to say that the estimation of BPL families is done on the basis of the Rural Development Ministry's guidelines that have been issued to various States. The Survey that was started in 2002 is still going on.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I am asking for the definition of BPL.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Let me tell you. As far as identification of BPL families is concerned, the survey is still on. Certain cases have also been filed in the court.

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SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (CONTD): Therefore, it has not been finally decided. As far as determination of BPL is concerned, the consumption-expenditure method has been adopted. In our country, we are not adopting the income criterion, which I had made very clear.

श्री रामविलास पासवान : सर, हमारा सीधा प्रश्न है कि आप BPL फैमिलीज़ को मानेंगे या नहीं मानेंगे, इसलिए आप हां या नहीं में बोलिए?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: We go by the consumption-expenditure method which has been proved to be near true and which has been targeting the people who are living below poverty line. Therefore, Sir, as the hon. Member said, identification of BPL families by the exclusion and inclusion method, which has been recommended by the Saxena Committee, is being looked into.

(Ends)