

## **Poverty**

10.6 Incidence of poverty is estimated by the Planning Commission on the basis of large-scale quinquennial Sample Survey on Household Consumer Expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). Since no such large-scale survey has been conducted after the 55th Round during 1999-2000, the last official estimates of poverty relate to 1999-2000. Economic Survey for the last year had indicated that there was a significant decline between 1977-78 and 1999-

2000 in the proportion of people living below the poverty line (BPL) from 51.3 per cent to 26.1 per cent, and in the absolute number of poor from 328.9 million to 260.3 million. In spite of the impressive decline in poverty in the country as a whole, there are wide variations in the incidence of poverty across States and the rural-urban divide. The Tenth Plan (2002-07) has set a target of reduction in poverty ratio by five percentage points to 19.3 per cent by 2007 and by 15 percentage points by 2012. The targets for rural and urban poverty in 2007 are 21.1 per cent and 15.1 per cent, respectively.