

Poverty

10.8 Incidence of poverty is estimated by the Planning Commission on the basis of the large scale quinquennial sample surveys on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). The latest such survey relates to the 55th round conducted in 1999-2000, and no official estimates of poverty are available beyond this date. Economic Surveys for 2003-2004 and 2004-2005, on the basis of results of the 55th round, had indicated that there has been an impressive decline in the incidence

of poverty in the 1990s. However, the extent of the actual decline in the proportion below the poverty line (BPL) between 1993-99 and 1999-2000 has been a subject of an intense debate by academicians because of the change in methodology for collection of basic data in 1999-2000 and possible non-comparability with earlier rounds of the consumer expenditure surveys. The next official estimates of poverty incidence will be based on the NSSO 61st round of large-scale sample survey conducted in 2004-05, results of which are expected to be published in 2006.