

## **Poverty**

10.7 The latest estimates of poverty are available for the year 1993-94 on the basis of National Sample Survey (NSS) Consumer expenditure of 50<sup>th</sup> Round (July 1993 to June 1994).

10.8 The incidence of poverty expressed as percentage of people below the poverty line is observed to have declined from 56.4 per cent in 1973-74 to 37.3 in 1993-94 in rural areas and from 49 per cent to 32.4 per cent in urban areas. For the country as a whole, the percentage of people below the poverty line

declined from 54.9 per cent in 1973-74 to 36 per cent in 1993-94. However, the number of poor in the country remained more or less stable at around 320 million due to rise in population.

10.9 The next large sample NSS Survey of Consumer Expenditure has been on from July 1999 and collection of data will be completed by July 2000. However, recent "thin samples" of household expenditure, which are not used for official poverty estimates because of their small sample size, do not show clear positive trends in poverty reduction.