

1) * While determining the poverty line in India a minimum level of food requirement, clothing, footwear, fuel and light, education and medical requirement etc. are determined for subsistence.

* The present formula for food requirement while estimating the poverty line is based on the desired caloric requirement. The accepted average caloric requirement in India is 2400 calories per person per day in rural areas and 2100 calories per person per day in urban areas.

* On the basis of these calculations, for the year 2000, the poverty line for a person was fixed at ₹ 328 per month for the rural areas and ₹ 454 for the urban areas.

* It means a person living in rural areas and earning less than ₹ 328 per month will be below the poverty line. In the same way, a person

living in urban areas and earning less than ₹454 per month will be below the poverty line.

2) * I don't think that present methodology of poverty estimation is appropriate. It takes into consideration the levels of income and consumption only.

* But, in fact poverty should be looked through other social indicators such as illiteracy level, lack of general resistance due to malnutrition, lack of job opportunities, lack of access to safe drinking water, sanitation etc.

* Poverty should also be looked through on the basis of social exclusion and vulnerability.