

*The Government of India had constituted two Expert Groups for estimating poverty and identifying the poor and reports of both the Groups have come out recently. The first Expert Group to Review the Methodology for the Estimation of Poverty was constituted by the Planning Commission and was chaired by Professor Suresh D. Tendulkar. The second Group, under the chairmanship of Dr. N.C. Saxena, was set up by the Ministry of Rural Development to advise the Ministry on the methodology of conducting the Below Poverty Line (BPL) Census for the Eleventh Five Year Plan. The recommendations of these two Expert Groups will have far-reaching implications on the life and livelihoods of the poor in India. The Planning Commission has accepted the poverty line recommended by the Tendulkar Group. As a result, the transfer of resources from the Centre to the states would increase significantly. The recommendations of the Saxena Committee, if accepted, will be used by the Central and state Governments for its various targeted developmental policies/schemes. Both these reports are being debated widely across India in various fora. This symposium brings together contributions from ten eminent experts from diverse disciplines and professional backgrounds so as to facilitate in-depth deliberations on the two reports.*