

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2390  
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2002  
NORMS TO ASCERTAIN POVERTY LEVEL  
AVSM, BRIG.(RETD.) KAMAKHYA PRASAD SINGH DEO;M. DURAI

**Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether a committee has been constituted by the Ministry of Rural Development to introduce a new system to ascertain the poverty level and actual number of people living below the poverty line and their quality of life in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the committee; and
- (c) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to implement these recommendations?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT ( SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL)

- (a) No, Sir. However, an Expert Group was constituted to suggest a methodology for identification of rural households living Below the Poverty Line (BPL).
- (b) The major recommendation of the Group is that keeping in view the difficulties experienced with the `income` approach and also the `expenditure` approach involving `exclusion criteria`, a `Score Based Ranking` of each household indicating their quality of life may be adopted for the BPL Census, 2002. Both economic and social indicators are taken into account for such ranking.
- (c) The Government have accepted most of the recommendations and have advised all States/UTs to initiate action for conducting the BPL Census during the current year.