

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:114
ANSWERED ON:24.10.2008
REVIEW OF NORMS FOR BPL PEOPLE
Patel Shri Jivabhai Ambalal;Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to review the norms/parameters for identification of Below Poverty Line (BPL) people in the country;
- (b) if so, whether any expert group has been set up for the purpose;
- (c) if so, the observations of the above group in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to update the list of BPL people in the country every year in view of the price-rise of essential commodities; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT(DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 114 to be answered on 24.10.2008

The Ministry has constituted an Expert Group on 12th August 2008 under the Chairmanship of Shri M. Shankar, former Secretary (RD) with 16 other members drawn from various field such as academics, administration and civil society etc. The Terms of Reference of the Expert Group are:

- (i) To recommend more suitable methodology to conduct the next BPL Census with simple, transparent and objectively measurable indicators for identification of BPL for providing assistance under the programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development.
- (ii) To recommend institutional system for conducting survey, processing of data validation and approval of BPL List at various levels.
- (iii) To recommend institutional mechanism to address grievances of public on exclusion/inclusion in the BPL List.
- (iv) To briefly look at the relationship between estimation and identification of poor and the issue of putting a limit on the total number of BPL families to be identified.
- (v) Any other recommendation to make the exercise of BPL Census simple and acceptable.
The Expert Group is to submit its report within six months.