

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2172

ANSWERED ON:12.12.2008

FINALISATION OF BPL LIST

Chandrappan Shri C.K.;Das Gupta Shri Gurudas;Mahtab Shri Bhartruhari;Mahto Shri Tek Lal;Mehta Shri Alok Kumar;Mohale Shri Punnulal;Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva;Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Below Poverty Line (BPL) list has been finalized by the States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and if not, the reasons for delay in the matter;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government for speedy finalization of the BPL list;
- (d) whether the Government has set-up any mechanism to verify the BPL list in view of the complaints regarding discrepancies in its preparation; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL)

(a) to (c): The Below Poverty Line (BPL) list based on BPL Census 2002 has been finalized by all States except J&K, Kerala, Manipur, Orissa, Sikkim, Tripura, Lakshadweep and Puducherry. The delay in finalizing the BPL list for the rural areas had occurred because the Supreme Court had passed a stay order while hearing a Writ Petition No.196 of 2001 in the matter of PUCL Vs GOI. The stay was vacated only on 14.2.2006 and according to the guidelines of BPL Census, the BPL list required the approval of Gram Sabhas which took considerable time in some States. Further, a two-stage appeal mechanism was also provided under the guidelines to redress the public grievances. Many States received a large number of appeals which took a lot of time to dispose off. The BPL Census 2002 was conducted using the methodology of score based ranking of households and the States were to decide the cut off score by taking into account the total number of poor in that State as indicated by the Planning Commission. Many States took time to decide the cut off score. The Ministry has been taking up the matter at the highest level constantly impressing upon the States to finalise the BPL list on priority basis. The forum like Performance Review Committee meetings, Nodal Officers meetings etc. have been utilized to review the progress of finalization of the BPL list.

(d) & (e): Under the guidelines of BPL Census 2002, a two-stage appeal mechanism has been provided in order to redress the public grievances relating to their status in the BPL list. The first appeal can be filed with the Tehsildar or SDM as the case may be. If still not satisfied, the second and final appeal can be filed with the Collector.