

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1362

ANSWERED ON:02.08.2010

LIST OF BPL PEOPLE

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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the criteria to decide the Below Poverty Line people;
- (b) the number of people living below the poverty line in each of the State as per the latest survey/study conducted by the Government alongwith the details of increase/decrease in the BPL as compared to the previous survey/study, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has received complaints regarding discrepancies in the list of BPL list;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (e) whether the Government has decided to conduct a pilot survey to determine the norms for poverty line;
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the proposal; and
- (g) the measures taken by the Government for alleviation of starvation and poverty alongwith upliftment of BPL in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT(SHRI PRADEEP JAIN 'ADITYA')

(a): The Ministry of Rural Development provides financial and technical support to the States/UTs for conducting the BPL Census to identify the families living Below the Poverty Line in the rural areas who could be targeted under its programmes. The last BPL Census was conducted in 2002 using the methodology of score based ranking of rural households for which 13 socio-economic parameters were used on the recommendation of an Expert Group constituted by the Ministry of Rural Development.

(b): States/UTs have identified 550.821 lakhs rural families as BPL under BPL Census 2002. Prior to 2002, BPL Census was conducted in 1997 under which 555.710 rural families were identified by States as BPL. State wise details is at Annexure -I. Results of BPL Census 1997 and 2002 are not comparable as both the surveys were conducted with different methodologies.

(c)& (d): The Ministry of Rural Development has been receiving complaints relating to BPL list. These are forwarded to the concerned State Governments for necessary action as the BPL Census is conducted by the States/UTs. The guidelines of BPL Census 2002, allows for a provision of two stage appeal mechanism to redress the public grievances. Under the appeal mechanism, any household can file first appeal before the designated authority and final appeal can be filed with the District Collector. The appeal mechanism provided under the guidelines is a continuous process.

(e)&(f): The Ministry of Rural Development is undertaking a pilot survey to arrive at methodology for forthcoming BPL Census. The pilot is being conducted in 260 villages selected from sample frame of villages for NSSO's 66th round. Survey instrument/Schedules and instruction manuals have been designed in consultation with the States/UTs. Training of State level officers has started at the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), Hyderabad.

(g): The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing several schemes of Rural Development and poverty alleviation through the State Governments and Union Territory (UT) Administrations. These include Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) for poverty alleviation and employment generation in rural areas of the country. The other schemes of the Ministry like Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) and Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) are also being implemented for providing basic amenities and area development in rural areas. Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) is welfare scheme under National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) under which Additional Central Assistance (ACA) is provided to States/UTs. Out of the above schemes Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) and Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) are specifically meant for upliftment of BPL households.