

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1425

ANSWERED ON:03.08.2010

CASTE BASED CENSUS

Angadi Shri Suresh Chanabasappa;Anuragi Shri Ghansyam ;Balram Shri P.;Khaira Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao;Kodikunnil Shri Suresh;Reddy Shri Magunta Srinivasulu;Shetkar Shri Suresh Kumar;Sugavanam Shri E.G.

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to conduct caste based census of the SC/ST/OBC, disabled persons and Below Poverty Line families in the current census;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the total funds released/utilized and the steps take to check misutilisation of funds;
- (c) whether the Government has appointed any Group of Ministers to examine the modalities for enumeration of caste in the current census;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the present status thereof;
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to provide security and basic facilities to the officials engaged in collecting the census data;
- (f) whether the Government has taken any assistance from NGOs and other organisations to ensure speedy implementation of the census; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN)

(a): The Government has notified its intent to conduct Census of India in 2011 with the reference date as March 1, 2011. As a matter of policy, information on castes other than Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is not collected in Census since independence. The issue of Caste-based Census has been referred to a Group of Ministers (GoM). All persons normally resident in the country during the Census period are counted where they are found without omission or duplication. This is referred to as "extended defacto method" of canvassing. Therefore, every normal resident irrespective of whether they are disabled or not are covered in the Census. One of the questions proposed to be canvassed is to ascertain whether the enumerated person is disabled or not and if disabled to ascertain the type of disability that the person suffers from.

The Census as a rule does not canvass questions on income. The persons below poverty line is therefore, not available from census.

(b): The Committee on Non Plan Expenditure (CNE) has approved expenditure of Rs. 2195.75 cr for conduct of Census 2011. Under the provisions of Indian Census Act, 1948, the responsibility for taking or aiding in or supervising the taking of census within their respective areas devolves on the State Governments. This is an agency function to be performed by the State Governments. In terms of Article 258(3) of the Constitution of India and Rule 109 of the General Financial Rules 2005, the extra cost of the State Govt. arising mainly due to the additional staff employed or contingent or other expenditure in connection with the administration of Census Act, is reimbursable to the State Governments. However, keeping in view financial constraints of State Governments funds have been placed as 'On Account Advance' with the Accountant Generals of respective States for conduct of Census 2011. For conduct of Phase 1 of the Census 2011 i.e. House-listing and Housing Census, an amount of Rs. 764.29 cr has been placed as advance to States till date.

(c) & (d): Yes Madam. The Government has constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) on 4.6.2010 with Hon'ble Minister of Finance, as Chairman and ten other members to examine the issue of enumerating castes other than Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the ensuing Census 2011. The GoM has convened it first meeting on 1st July, 2010. The views of the esteemed leaders of all the political parties represented in Lok Sabha have been sought on the matter.

(e): Section 15 of the Census Act, 1948 provides safeguards to the officials engaged in collecting the Census data. As regards basic facilities, there is also a provision of giving honorarium to the persons who have been deployed/engaged for Census work.

(f) & (g): Yes Madam. The NGOs have been deployed for imparting training to various Census functionaries.