

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3251
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2010
CRITERIA FOR CLASSIFICATION OF SLUM
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Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the criteria of classifying a human dwelling as slums;
- (b) whether such criteria take into account condition of dwellings, access to the clean water supply, power supply, sanitation and sewage and other civic amenities;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether such criteria is in conformity with the international norms to define a slum; and
- (e) if so, the facts thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA)

(a) to (c): The Slum Census, conducted by the Registrar General of India as part of Census 2001, defined slums to include the following:

- (i) All specified areas in a town or city notified as slum by State/Local Government and UT Administration under any Act including a slum Act.
- (ii) All areas recognized as slum by State/Local Government and UT Administration, Housing and Slum Board, which may have not been formally notified as slum under any Act.
- (iii) A compact area of at least 300 population or about 60-70 households of poorly built congested tenements, in unhygienic environment usually with inadequate infrastructure and lacking in proper sanitary and drinking facilities.

(d) and (e): The UN-HABITAT defines slum as a contiguous settlement where the inhabitants are characterized as having inadequate housing and basic services. A slum is often not recognized and addressed by the public authorities as an integral or equal part of the city.

The slum household is a group of individuals living under the same roof having one or more of the conditions, i.e.(i) insecure residential status (ii) inadequate access to safe water (iii) inadequate access to sanitation and other infrastructure (iv) poor structural quality of houses (v) overcrowding.

As may be seen from the above, the criteria adopted by Census of India to define a slum in terms of parameters of poor quality shelter, congestion and lack of access to basic civic amenities are broadly similar to that adopted by UN-HABITAT.