

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:353
ANSWERED ON:10.11.2010
DISPARITY IN BPL ESTIMATES
Yadav Shri Om Prakash

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is disparity between the estimates of State-wise poverty made by the Planning Commission and list of beneficiaries prepared by the States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to conduct a new survey to review the list of people below poverty line;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of laid-down norms for allocation of subsidized food grains to the States alongwith the basis on which the States distribute the foodgraining to the beneficiaries?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

(a) & (b): The Planning Commission is the only nodal Government agency to estimate the number and proportion of persons living below the poverty line at the National and State level separately for rural and urban areas. However, the Ministry of Rural Development conducts the Below Poverty Line (BPL) Census through the State Governments/UT Administrations to identify the BPL households in the rural areas. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (HUPA) as a nodal Ministry issues the general guidelines for identification of BPL families in the urban areas. However, there has not been a uniform methodology followed by the States for identification of BPL households in urban areas. A statement containing the latest official state-wise poverty estimates of Planning Commission and the estimates based on the recommendations of Tendulkar Committee is at Annexe-I. The number of BPL households in rural areas identified by the States/UTs on the basis of BPL Census 2002 are at Annexe-II.

(c) & (d): The Ministry of Rural Development is already in the process of finalizing the methodology for conducting the next BPL Census for preparation of list of BPL households. An Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Prof. S.R.Hashim has been constituted by the Planning Commission to recommend the methodology for identification of BPL families in the urban areas. The new survey both in rural and urban areas to identify the BPL households is to be conducted after finalization of the methodology in consultation with stakeholders.

(e): The allocation of foodgrains to the States/UTs is made on the basis of distribution of 6.52 crore BPL households estimated based on 1993-94 official poverty ratios applied to the projected population by Registrar General of India as on 1st March 2000. The foodgrains are allocated @35 kg per month per household since the year 2002. The BPL cardholders are identified by the State Governments/UTs.